

Unexpected - A Modern HTTYD Fanfic

by Astrid DragonRider of Hogwarts

Category: How to Train Your Dragon

Genre: Friendship, Romance

Language: English

Characters: Astrid, Hiccup, Ruffnut, Snotlout

Status: In-Progress

Published: 2014-04-28 00:19:16

Updated: 2016-04-24 14:40:49

Packaged: 2016-04-26 18:32:17

Rating: M

Chapters: 26

Words: 42,892

Publisher: www.fanfiction.net

Summary: Berk Academy is like any other school and uni... The popular kids run the joint and the nerds hide away. But when Astrid and the others come back to start their degrees... Something unexpected happens... And for Astrid, nothing could have prepared her for what her heart was about to feel.

1. Chapter 1

The blonde swung around on her desk, her braided hair flicking every so casually over her shoulder as she did so. Hiccup just stared. She was the most beautiful thing he'd ever seen, and he'd seen some stunning dragons in his time. She turned and glanced in his direction and Hiccup quickly tried to make it appear as if he hadn't been staring at her... again.

"Eeww! Astrid! I think Hiccup was staring at you again!" The blonde next to her said laughing at Hiccup. Astrid smiled slightly and turned back to the other girls sat with her.

"Please, Astrid wouldn't go for that." The ebony haired Heather said smirking. Hiccup sighed, it was true. Astrid was the most popular girl in the school and boys had been chasing her since they were seven, including Hiccup's cousin Snotlout, who was far better looking than Hiccup according to everyone. Astrid had never paid Snotlout or any other boy much attention. But if she wasn't interested in any of the 'real men-like boys' why would she be into Hiccup? Sure Hiccup was the son of their leader... and sure he trained dragons... but he was a scrawny little nerd and no one liked that. Fishlegs, one of Snotlout's friends was the only nerd that group accepted. The group was divided into male and females as well but they all hung out together and made Hiccup's life a living hell. It consisted of his cousin, Snotlout, Fishlegs, the resident nerd, Tuffnut, the joker and his sister Ruffnut, who was Astrid's best friend, Astrid, a stunning beauty with a fiery personality and Heather, she was a bit sneaky but no one could deny she was stunning. And then you had Hiccup.

He stared down at his desk and tried to pretend he couldn't hear what was being said.

"Hey babe, what's happening?" Snotlout said snaking an arm around Astrid. She glared and shoved his arm away.

"What have I told you about calling me that? No one calls me 'babe' and no one ever will."

"Yeah, and besides, she's with someone remember Snotlout?" Ruff laughed

"Not my fault she turned her nose up at this."

"Eurgh." Astrid groaned

"When she's got him what does she need you for? He's so much sexier." Heather said smiling at Astrid. Hiccup sank further in his seat and began doodling on a scrap of paper as he listened. He'd forgotten Astrid's new boyfriend. He was a year or two above them in school and very popular.

"Can we stop discussing this please?" Astrid said casually playing with her braid

"Did you guys finish the assignment for chemistry?" Fishlegs asked nervously "I think I've done enough but I mean, I'm not totally sure..."

"Fishlegs, just because we're done discussing Astrid's love life does not mean we want to discuss assignments." Tuffnut groaned. "And yes, I've done it. Pretty well too I think."

"Same. If he can do it I can." Ruff smirked, Heather nodded as did Snotlout.

"Yeah I did it..." Astrid began

"But?"

"But you know... Nothing. Forget it." She snapped as Gobber walked in to take the register. Hiccup sighed again, chemistry and the sciences and maths too was not Astrid's strong suit. When it came to physical combat she was amazing, but the logical subjects often had her stumped. Hiccup knew he could help her but she'd never accept it. She'd barely even look at him let alone let him help her.

"Morning you lot. Settle down then, I want to check you're all here and then send you on your way as quick as I can. So just sit still and shut up." Gobber bellowed. He was a fun teacher... if a little unconventional. Hiccup was used to him as Gobber had been in his life as a carer for as long as Hiccup could remember. Gobber did a very quick register and then dismissed them all.

"Gobber am I alright to come down and do some more work in the 'forge' after school?" Hiccup asked. The 'Forge' was the name Gobber gave to his metal work rooms, a separate building where Gobber practically ran his side bar business of being a blacksmith. Hiccup had been trained as a blacksmith for years, mostly to keep him

occupied. But he found it a useful tool for relieving stress, and in a high school there was plenty of that.

"Sure you are Hiccup. Oh and Astrid, you're ok to use the gym late. They said it was alright, but let me know when you're done so I can lock up. Oh and Hiccup, another thing, Hilda asked if you'd be alright to clear up the library after school as she has to leave early and it's a mess."

"Yeah sure." Hiccup said, he didn't mind. He could get some work done and it was better than going home and listening to his father grumble all night. He'd just take Toothless, his Night Fury, out for a late flight.

The day passed fairly uneventfully for the most part... then it reached the lunch break.

"You bitch!" A voice shrieked down the corridor. Hiccup froze as he walked onto the scene, clutching his text books. Astrid was standing in front of Heather and looked ready to commit murder. "You're supposed to be my friend!"

"I am Astrid, I am your friend."

"Friends do not hook up with their friend's boyfriend!" Astrid hissed. Shit... Hiccup thought. Astrid was tough and rarely showed emotion but when she was angry, you knew about it.

"Oh please, you didn't really like him that much. You've been together for a few weeks now and never kissed, you wouldn't even hold hands or hug him. And you certainly weren't going to put out..."

"You absolute bitch! How dare you... I can't believe you! I swear when I get my hands on you..." But then Gobber arrived and pulled Astrid away from Heather. Astrid then promptly ran off and no one saw her for the rest of the day.

No one, except Hiccup that is.

He was putting books back in the library late that evening after he'd been down in the Forge, when he noticed one of the desk lamps was still on and a figure sat hunched over the desk, their head in their arms. He wandered closer cautiously and instantly recognised the blonde braid that belonged to Astrid, that and her combat boots and torn up jeans. Her head was buried in her arms and Hiccup could see sheets of homework and assignments laid beneath her. Taking a deep breath he gently placed a hand on her shoulder as he put the armful of books down.

"Hey, Astrid er... Are, are you alright?" He asked softly, she didn't respond but he heard her sniff slightly and realised she must have been crying. "Umm," He tried to think of something to say to make her feel better but his brain was fried. He couldn't think of anything at all. Then he noticed her math's homework and the equations she'd clearly been struggling with. The only thing he could think to do or say was to correct it and explain it as he did so.

"So yeah... Umm, I uh, I hope you're ok. And well, I hope that helps. Ok." He picked up the books again and began to walk away.

"Am I just an idiot?" Hiccup heard her ask quietly as he walked away. She raised her head and stared at her hands. Hiccup's heart began beating faster; she'd barely ever spoken to him. "I mean, was I completely stupid to trust her? To trust him?" Hiccup's throat had gone dry; he couldn't seem to get the words out. "Who am I kidding? I'm so stupid. All I can do is throw a punch. I can't do anything else right. I chose to be friends with a girl who flirts with every guy she meets... to go out with a guy two years older than me who everyone knows has done the dirty with any girl he wants... I can't get higher than a D in pretty much any of my subjects... I'm just completely stupid." Her head dipped again and Hiccup finally managed to find some words.

"You're not an idiot." He said quietly, almost afraid to be heard.

"What?" She said looking up and at him, though his back was still turned.

"You're not an idiot." He said a little more firmly, turning around to face her. "You deserve better than him, someone who will treat you with respect, and someone who really cares about you. You deserve to be with someone who makes you want to do all that romantic stuff like holding hands and kissing at sunset. You deserve better friends than Heather. You were right, no friend would do what she did. You're better off without her." She stared at him as if seeing him for the first time. "And you are not stupid, so what if you can't get maths or science so easily? It'll come in time, and you can always ask for help. You're brilliant, and strong and beautiful. Don't listen to those people that tell you you're not because they're lying. You're an amazing dragon trainer, and very talented. You're seriously tough and that's good. You're beautiful and perfect as you are. If someone can't see that, well... they're not worth your time." And then blushing furiously Hiccup turned away and hurried to put the books back and leave.

He had just grabbed his satchel when Astrid stepped in front of him; her blue eyes were wide and slightly glassy. She had a look of slight disbelief on her face still, but there was a trace of a very small smile at the corners of her mouth. Hiccup looked away nervously and went to walk out of the door but Astrid grabbed hold of his top and pulled him to her, kissing him briefly on the cheek and hurrying away herself. In that moment, Hiccup truly thought he had died and gone to Valhalla.

2. Chapter 2

Three and a half years later

Astrid sat in the cool autumn sun on the grassy patch outside of school with Ruffnut, Fishlegs, Snotlout and Tuffnut. Over the years the group had stayed very close. Not much had really changed in the great scheme of things; they were still very much the same people they had been nearly four years ago. Except now they were legal adults and taking advantage of the perks.

Astrid turned her face up to the sun, her gold blonde braid catching it's rays and practically glowing. She still wore torn up jeans with

combat boots and a tank top, but she now added a Dragon ear cuff and net gloves to her look. Ruff tended to just wear whatever she grabbed in the morning, but somehow always looked awesome. The two were sat enjoying the sun whilst Fishlegs went on and on about the start of their new courses. Astrid turned to grin at Ruffnut who had Snotlout's head in her lap currently.

Snotlout had eased off ever so slightly on hitting on Astrid and starting paying a little more attention to Ruff. Though she always acted like she didn't care, Astrid knew her best friend was loving it. Snotlout was casually swinging his car keys in his hand. He was a little over-proud of his new car, a monster Hummer in black; he said it was to represent Hookfang, a monstrous car and a monstrous dragon. Astrid said he was just over-compensating.

He'd started to grow a new moustache to look older, cooler, but currently it looked a bit like a baby caterpillar crawling above his lip. He was still the stocky and cocky boy he had always been. But He had calmed a little in the last year.

Tuff still tried no end to best Ruff and nearly always failed. But he himself had become a little calmer about things, he sometimes went a little overboard with his laid back devil-may-care attitude but it was better than Fishlegs who just seemed to get more and more anxious with every passing week.

The five were happily lounging around waiting for the day to begin, it was a new year and they'd be starting their degree courses. They were all doing combined degrees. Dragon Training combined with another subject. They were the only and first to do it.

Though Astrid would of course, be continuing with her training, she had chosen to study sciences with Fishlegs. The decision had surprised most people as she'd often struggled with the subject but she had passed with decent enough grades and was determined.

Ruff was also surprising everyone by doing Literature with her dragon training... with an extra science class on the side.

Tuff was doing a dual maths and science degree as was Fishlegs; Fishlegs had flunked in literature poetry and so had decided he'd settle for just being the science nerd.

Snotlout was doing his degree in physical training; he fully intended to be a personal trainer or leader one day. Astrid smirked every time he mentioned becoming a leader.

The next leader would of course be Hiccup, who would take over from his father, Stoick, one day. There were a few small issues though. One being that no one had seen Hiccup for over three years. Astrid could remember it perhaps most vividly of their group. It had barely been a week after she had kissed him on the cheek in the dark of the library. He'd been there one minute and the next he and Toothless had just, gone. Astrid had been surprised by the sudden move, for a while she'd actually found herself watching the skies waiting for the night when she'd see him come back. If it hadn't of been for him that night in the library... she wouldn't be where she was now. Though she refused to admit it, even to herself, she found herself watching for him still every so often. Looking for the familiar twig like boy who had helped her. For the Night Fury her beloved Deadly Nadder Stormfly

so adored. And secretly, she had hoped over the summer he might have come back, in time for this new year, to give her pointers when she didn't ask for them in science. But Hiccup hadn't come back. No one had any idea what had become of Stoick's heir the last few years.

"You guys coming out on Friday?" Snotlout asked raising a hand to a loose stand of Ruff's hair, she smirked as his fingers toyed with it but batted his hand away playfully.

"Hell yeah I am. This first week is gonna be tough and I know I'm going to need to let off some steam this weekend!" Ruff said giving Snotlout a coy smile. Astrid struggled not to throw her head back and laugh.

"I'm in, Fishlegs?" Tuff asked casually.

"He's in whether he likes it or not, he's got to stay at ours Tuff so he can damn well put up with it!" Snotlout answered

"Well you know, maybe you guys could just go and I can stay in and do some work..."

"No chance! You're coming out Fishlegs, end of!"

"Astrid?" Ruff asked absentmindedly running her fingers through Snotlout's hair. Astrid sat playing with her hair for a moment.

"Will there be music, dancing and booze?"

"Obviously" Ruff responded.

"Then I am so in!" They all laughed and settled back when a motorbike pulled up into a space at the front of the school. As its engine roared everyone stopped and stared at the bike and its rider. The bike was all black except for a couple of red crest like things painted on its side. The person riding it dismounted and everyone turned their attention to them instead. He was fairly tall, maybe just under 6ft Astrid would have guessed and clad in leather and wearing biker boots. He pulled off his gloves and moved his hands up to remove his helmet. Astrid found her eyes searching the boy's tall lithe figure appreciatively. She found herself wishing for him to take off the jacket so she might be able to see if he had defined abs beneath his top. Everyone was staring as he tugged the helmet off his head and ran a hand through his hair before looking up and noticing all the people watching him. Astrid's eyes moved from his hand to his soft auburn brown hair to his face... He had stunning green eyes that she could not look away from... They turned and looked at her and she found herself melting into that gaze. Then he gave a tiny crooked smile, shook his head lightly and walked into the building, only pausing to grab a satchel from the box on the back of his bike...

Eyes followed him all the way to the doors and as soon as he was out of sight, the babble broke out.

"Phoar! I would not mind getting some of that!" Ruff said causing Snotlout to pout, she didn't notice. "What do you reckon Astrid? Astrid?" Astrid didn't hear her, her mind was wandering down darkened

paths, initially she'd begun mentally undressing the rider but now she was taking a stroll down memory lane, and remembering those eyes... Those startling green eyes that seemed to see through her. The only time she could think of noticing such eyes before was late at night, in a deserted library when she had kissed Hiccup on the cheek... But it couldn't be Hiccup... Could it?

"Err Astrid? Are you still with us?"

"What? Oh yeah I'm here." Then she smirked at Ruffnut. "And hell yeah I'd like a piece of that, did you see that ass?" And what scared her more than the possibility that the hottie was Hiccup, was that she still really wanted him. "Come on, maybe he'll be in our tutor group and we can stare some more." Astrid said and she and Ruff hurried into the building leaving Snotlout looking disgruntled.

3. Chapter 3

They settled down into their tutor room, Astrid groaned internally as Heather snaked into the room and smirked at Astrid, she ran a hand over both Snotlout and Tuffnut and grinned nastily at Ruffnut and Astrid before going to take her seat. What Astrid wouldn't give to punch her hard in the face...

"Alright you lot, welcome back now settle down. I need to do the register and hand out your timetables." Gobber bellowed striding into the room. "And yes Astrid you can still use the gym in the evenings." She smiled and settled comfortably in her seat. Gobber began calling names and handing over timetables, when he reached Heather she batted her eyes sweetly at Astrid but she saw through that. "Fishlegs Ingerman... Here you go laddie. Try and relax a bit sometimes... Stop being so tense." Gobber then stopped and peered around... Everyone knew why, it used to be Hiccup next on the register, but well... it hadn't been for some time... But Gobber always checked hopefully.

"I'm here! I'm here! Sorry I'm late Gobber, couldn't find my locker... it's been a while. And the lock needs changing, it's useless." A figure said hurrying into the room, it was the biker boy, and he was still wearing his leathers and Astrid found herself staring once more.

"Hiccup my boy! Great to see you! Not late at all! Just in time in fact, here's your timetable and the Forge will be open later if you need it. Everyone, please welcome back Hiccup." Gobber said clapping Hiccup on the shoulder and beaming. This gesture would once have sent Hiccup flying face first into the floor, it didn't any more. Everyone froze and stared disbelieving. How could it be Hiccup? How? This guy was hot! He rode a motorbike, he wore leather! Hiccup... Hiccup had been small and scrawny and not at all badass... This guy was. How could they be the same guy? Hiccup glanced around nervously at them all. Everyone was staring at him... Astrid could understand why he might feel awkward. Plus half the girls there were probably drooling, not that she'd notice though since she couldn't take her eyes off Hiccup.

Still grinning nervously Hiccup walked over to his old seat and sat down; he leaned back casually and tried to ignore the eyes staring at him, especially Astrid's. She was staring at him as if she'd never

seen anything like him before. It unnerved him but at the same time, he didn't mind. It made a change for it to be her staring and not him.

As Gobber continued Hiccup tried to relax. "Astrid Hofferson." Gobber called, Astrid didn't notice, she was still staring at him, everyone seemed to suddenly notice this. "Astrid? Yoohoo Astrid." Gobber said but she still didn't respond. Hiccup smiled softly and took her timetable from Gobber then walked over to Astrid and handed it to her and said

"Your timetable. I don't think you heard Gobber, your mind was clearly elsewhere." He said trying to hide the grin on his face. She blinked rapidly, turned a brilliant shade of pink and turned away from him sharpish as Ruff jabbed her hard in the ribs and giggled.

"Shut up!" Astrid hissed, still blushing furiously. A few minutes later and they all left to go to their first classes. Hiccup's first lesson was chemistry. Dragon Training would be in the afternoons starting next week. Hiccup would be teaching the course. He began wandering down to his first lesson and found himself crashing into Astrid who was surrounded by the others.

"Oh, sorry!" Hiccup said and he knelt down to help Astrid pick up the books she had just dropped.

Astrid couldn't say anything, his voice was deeper than she remembered and he still looked so hot right now. As he knelt down she caught another glimpse of his ass in those tight trousers and nearly swooned so quickly bent down to grab everything stuttering as she did so.

"It's fine, don't worry." She said as she began pulling her text books towards her.

"No it was my fault; I should have been paying attention to where I was going. I'm sorry." He said standing up and holding out a hand to help her up whilst giving her a heart-melting smile. She chanced a glance up at him and found herself melting inside as she stared at that smile; she made to stand up without taking his hand but stumbled in her distracted state and ended up taking his hand anyway. He helped her up like a true gentleman and Astrid loathed herself for the thoughts creeping into her head.

"Um... th... thanks." She said turning away from him in an attempt to shield herself from his adorable smile that melted away at her tough act. She felt her cheeks burning and quickly stared at the floor to try and hide them. She hoped he'd just accept her gratitude and walk away, she hated feeling embarrassed and vulnerable, and especially she hated feeling that way because of a guy. Much to her annoyance he raised a hand to turn her face back to look at him.

"You're always welcome Astrid. You've got chemistry now too right?" He said, still smiling that damned smile. Astrid nodded trying to regain composure. She swung her hair back and turned to walk away and found herself facing a smirking Ruffnut.

"Eurgh" She groaned and turned back to Hiccup, it wasn't much better as it would only make Ruff smirk more; she turned and hit Fishlegs on

the arm. "Well you do too, let's go." And shoving Fishlegs forward she quickly walked past Hiccup and away from Ruff, hoping Fishlegs would remain the un-teasing boy he'd always been.

"Erm first, ow. Secondly, what was that all about? You never get like that with anyone, let alone Hiccup..." She slammed Fishlegs into the lockers and held a fist up to his face.

"It was nothing got that? Mention it again and I'll break your nose. Clear?" Fishlegs nodded frantically and prayed she hadn't noticed Hiccup and Ruffnut were right beside them staring silently. Hiccup looking a little confused but the ghost of a smile was etched on his face and Ruffnut was grinning like a Cheshire Cat.

"Good. Now let's just forget it and get to class." She said stepping away, casually rearranging her braid as if nothing had happened and walking purposefully down the corridor.

Hiccup and Ruffnut stepped up either side of Fishlegs. Fishlegs breathed a sigh of relief as he watched her storm away.

"What was that all about then?" Hiccup asked casually, he'd always got on better with Fishlegs than the others in that group. They'd secretly been fairly good friends years back.

"I don't know but I am loving it!" Ruff laughed rubbing her hands wickedly. "Oh I am going to have so much fun with this!" She went to chase Astrid down but Hiccup reached out and pulled her back. Ruff was surprised at his strength and force and so complied, mostly just out of sheer shock.

"Woah slow down there... Have fun with what?" Hiccup asked. Ruff grinned more.

"Oh I'm going to have SO much fun with this! You'll see in time boys, you'll see in time." And winking, and still grinning playfully she dashed off.

"Did you understand any of that?" Hiccup asked Fishlegs.

"I understand chemistry but not this kind of chemistry." He said walking down to the classroom and then turning back to Hiccup and giving him a smirk "Usually."

4. Chapter 4

"Now obviously, this is not an easy subject and so I expect there to be a few slip ups and errors early on..." The chemistry teacher Ms Hildegard was saying to the class. "...but I will expect the best after the first few weeks. Anyone failing to pay attention and keep up will not get any sympathy from me. If you think you will be incapable of keeping up with the course, then you may as well leave now." Astrid felt herself tense a little. She'd always known she'd struggle with her choices of subjects to study, but hearing the blunt statement that if she couldn't cope she should just leave made it all too real. She shifted nervously in her seat but kept her head held high and stared straight ahead as if she didn't have any concern whatsoever. She could feel Ruff's gaze on her, and she could just about see Fishlegs glancing nervously at her out of the corner of her

eye. She rolled her eyes and looked right at him ready to make a rude gesture, when her eyes landed on the person sat at the bench beside him. Hiccup. He looked at her, a hint of concern in his eyes, but then he smiled and nodded at her, as if trying to tell her she was right to act like she wasn't worried, as if telling her she would be fine. She quickly turned back to the front and tried to act as though she was not at all bothered by the look Hiccup had given her.

Ruff kept giving her looks and she did her best to ignore them and tried to just focus on what Ms Hildegard was telling them. She gave them a few equations to balance and then called Hiccup to show it on the board. This was the moment that it became clear that Hiccup was still Hiccup, but also that he now had a hold over every girl in the room. He dropped the board marker and bent down to pick it up. Astrid's eyes widened slightly as she caught the full view of Hiccup's ass in those tight trousers. Her jaw visibly dropped and she stared open mouthed, beside her Ruff was doing much the same, Astrid then found herself smiling a little and biting her lower lip as she rested her head on her hand and watched his ass, even as he stood up and explained how he had balanced the equation she stared. She ended up not hearing a word he said, she didn't notice Ruff jabbing her until after Hiccup returned to his seat and the class was dismissed. Blushing furiously Astrid rose from her seat and hurried out of the classroom heading for the gym. Double chemistry with Hiccup's butt had been too much. She needed to beat the crap out of a punch bag before going for lunch and her next lessons.

5. Chapter 5

Hiccup sighed; it had been a busy day. Double chemistry first thing, then he'd been in the Forge, then he'd had physics and biology. Then he'd been prepping lessons for dragon training next week. He'd also had Heather trailing him all day which had begun to get a little annoying. He had a tonne of work already. He'd been back to the Forge again to release some of the stress already, as the evening grew darker though, he found himself heading for the gym. Slung his satchel down on the floor Hiccup began to stretch, he was still wearing his loose t-shirt from when he'd been in the Forge. His arms ached, he wasn't sure if it was from frantic note taking, over doing it in the forge or the hours of dragon riding finally coming back to bite him in the ass. Either way he needed this work out.

He took a quick run on the treadmill and then, as it was late and the gym was deserted, he pulled his sweat-stained t-shirt over his head and threw it in a heap on the floor before doing weight lifting. He lay back on the bench and went to lift, and then decided it might not be a good idea without a spotter.

"Need a spotter?" Came a voice, Hiccup jerked upright and hit himself on the weight bar. Standing at the entrance to the gym, was the thin lithe figure of Astrid. She was wearing a Lycra crop top and a pair of tight fitted exercise shorts.

"Whaa... what?" He said rubbing himself where he'd whacked into the bar.

"I said, do you need a spotter?" She asked casually as she removed her earphones. She looked so hot standing there like that, though her hair was still tied in a braid, it was falling out and fell perfectly

around her face, framing it.

"Ermm, how, how long have you been there? I thought I was the only one still here?" Hiccup asked, tripping over his words, as he always had done around Astrid. She didn't even glance up; she just placed her iPod in her bag.

"Not too long, I went for a run to clear my head, I was coming back to maybe do a little more with a punch bag and then shower up. Thought I'd offer you a hand." She said calmly and looked up; as he looked away she raised an appreciative eyebrow.

"Err yeah, thanks." She walked over and stood behind his head. He tried very hard not to stare at her body as he lay back, her exposed belly drew his eyes and they began scanning up her body, admiring every curve of her body, from her chest to the gentle slope of her throat to her chin. He felt his heart beat faster as she stood there. He then tried to focus on lifting the weight, closing his eyes he began to lift.

Astrid had noticed the way his eyes scanned her body, the way he had stared. But his gaze didn't sicken her the way it did when it was Snotlout or anyone else really. As he began to lift the weights she struggled to keep her attention on spotting. Hiccup had never been able to lift weights like these before, he hadn't ever had abs. And she couldn't stop staring at them. The muscles in his arms, in his stomach, tensing and relaxing, contracting and shifting. She wanted so badly to run her hands over them, to feel them ripple and tense beneath her touch. She bit her lip and restrained herself from reaching out to touch him. She was not that kind of girl. But all the same... what she wouldn't give to touch him right now, to feel those abs... Hiccup groaned suddenly making her jump and he replaced the weights. She quickly looked away and tried to act like she had not just been fantasising about him. What was it about Hiccup?

Hiccup tried to act like he wasn't flustered by her mere presence. But he'd caught her staring at him, he'd seen that look she'd been giving him. He couldn't understand it, why was she looking at him like that? She'd never looked at him before; no one had ever looked at him, especially like that. Why would they? He sat up and looked at her; she'd turned away quickly and then walked over to her bag. He decided to pretend he hadn't noticed her staring.

"Err thanks for spotting me." He said somewhat awkwardly as he stood up and walked over to pick up his satchel. Astrid nodded and stood up straight only to find herself closer to Hiccup than perhaps she had intended. Her eyes widened and she looked up at him. He was taller. How had she not noticed how much taller he'd gotten?

"You're... you're welcome." She breathed, trying not to let her fingers reach up and trace the marks on his chest. Hiccup found himself breathing more heavily as he peered down at her, her eyes were on his chest, her fingers mere centimetres from the old scars running across it. He tried not to react; her fingers were so very close... She suddenly seemed to snap herself out of it.

She turned away abruptly and walked towards the punch bag. Hiccup wondered if he should leave her to it. She changed her mind halfway and walked out of the room.

6. Chapter 6

Astrid was ambling back towards her apartment having had a shower and visited Stormfly. Stormfly had to stay at the academy as she couldn't stay in the apartment block. It was pitch black out and Astrid kept her wits about her as she walked down the darkened streets. She was tough but she'd rather not have to deal with an assault on her first day. She heard something, footsteps... they were running, she began to walk faster when she heard a voice.

"Astrid! Astrid wait up!" It was only Hiccup. But why did knowing this only make her heart beat harder and faster in her chest? She stopped running and turned around.

"What?" She snapped, she was still embarrassed by her earlier behaviour, and unsettled by her rapidly beating heart as he came closer.

"Sorry, I just didn't want you walking home alone in the dark. It's just my silly ways." Astrid tried to give him a look that would say I-don't-need-any-one-to-take-care-of-me-stop-being-silly-i-can-take-care-of-myself, but instead found herself giving him a small sympathetic smile that practically screamed I-don't-think-I-need-anyone-but-you're-so-cute-for-coming-to-look-after-me-and-secretly-I'm-really-glad-you-are. She turned away quickly, heat rising in her cheeks.

"Umm... Thanks. I mean, I can take care of myself... I don't need a chaperone..."

"I know that, but it will make me feel better." He said softly, smiling that crooked smile. Damn why was that smile so cute? Why did it melt her tough exterior away as if it was nothing at all? It had never done that before. What had changed?

"Fine, but only because you'll feel better and I get the feeling you'd follow me anyway so someone might call the cops on you." She tried to snap, but she just smiled. Why did she love that he was looking out for her? That he was trying to be the chivalrous knight in... well, leather armour? They began to walk and Hiccup started asking her about what he'd missed since he'd been away. She told him about anything she could think of.

"Oh and Snotlout's started chasing Ruff now. She loves it secretly but don't tell her I told you that. She'd kill me." Hiccup laughed, really loudly. She had never heard him laugh, ever. It was a good sound. She smiled more. "Oh and one more thing, I took your advice..." She said quietly, now turning away shyly. Shy? Her? What was wrong with her?! "I stopped bothering with Heather. She still tries to get to me, but she has no way in anymore." Hiccup stopped laughing and stood in front of her, looking at her very seriously in the eyes.

"You remember that? After all these years?" He whispered softly, looking at her with such surprise in those brilliant green eyes of his. She could almost see the moon reflected in them. She nodded softly, her hair tumbling out of its braid fully as she did so.

"Of course, it was the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me. How

could I forget it?" She whispered back, as if afraid that someone would hear her, someone besides Hiccup. His hand rose up to her face, pushing some of the loose strands of her out of her face and tucking them behind her ear. He raised her face up to look him straight in the eyes. She swallowed hard as he did so.

Hiccup looked into her sapphire blue eyes as he tilted her chin up to look at him. He couldn't believe she remembered that night still. That she remembered his words. He had never forgotten, it was a secret memory that he had always cherished and dreamed about. It was the thing he had clung to when he wondered if she might have cared at all that he was gone, when he wondered about what could have been, what could be one day. It was that memory, of that night that started it all. She looked shy, nervous... something he couldn't ever remember Astrid being. What had come over her? And where had he found the courage to reach out to her like this? Once he'd probably have been punched for touching her hair let alone her face.

"How can it be that what I told you in the library nearly four years ago is the nicest thing anyone's ever said to you? That is impossible." Again she shook her head, her hair tumbled down again softly. He brushed it back once more, his hand still cupping the side of her face.

"No, because you're the first to say something like that... and to mean it... sincerely and honestly. And that's part of the reason I can never forget it."

Hiccup tried very hard not to do anything rash or stupid here now. The moment was so perfect, but he was so useless, he was bound to screw it up. He had to think of something clever or charming to say, or do... anything. He couldn't think, he just stood there his hand on her face feeling like an idiot. To his surprise though, she smiled at him. That smile was so beautiful, it lit up her face, brightened the dark like the light from a million stars. He'd give anything to make sure that smile never left her face. Then he said something aloud, he hadn't meant to but he did.

"You're so beautiful." He whispered. She stared at him surprised. He felt surprised, especially when his mouth kept forming the words he'd only meant to think. "You deserve to be told that every single day by someone who means it. You are the most beautiful thing I've ever seen, and I've seen a lot. When you smile, my day gets a little brighter. I'd give anything to see you smile." As he said those words, he regretted it. He meant them, but they sounded so stupid, so sappy. Astrid wasn't the kind to... His mind went blank because Astrid had just pressed her lips to his and for a second everything around him stopped. The world ceased to move and time itself froze. After the initial shock of her kissing him he kissed her back, his hand still on her face and the other slipping to her back. They stood there, together for only a minute, but it was the greatest minute of Hiccup's life. After she pulled away from him she blushed scarlet and then said very quickly.

"Umm, that's my apartment block just there so, it's ok I can make it from here..." she began to hurry away and then stopped and turned back to him. "There's a party on Friday, if you wanted to come... See you Hiccup..." And then she was gone, leaving Hiccup's brain reeling to catch up with his racing heart.

7. Chapter 7

"Oh Gods. What have I done?" Astrid thought as she walked into the apartment she shared with Ruffnut. "What did I just do? Did I seriously just do that? What was I thinking?" She couldn't explain her actions to herself... and worst of all; she couldn't explain away the feeling in the pit of her stomach. It was an elated feeling, like a million Terrible Terrors taking flight at once and carrying her off. For some reason, as she thought back to that minute, she found herself smiling. She felt a tingling in her toes, a fluttering feeling in her tummy and as if everything was right with the world. What in the name of Thor was this feeling? And why, why did she have it? She leaned against the door as if expecting her repressed emotions to smash through it and carry her away. She then walked over to the window and peered out of the curtains, trying to catch a glimpse of Hiccup before he left, but he was already gone. She half hoped she'd hear a knock at the door and find him standing there, but she knew she wouldn't.

"Astrid? You're home late. How was your workout?" Ruffnut asked walking out of her bedroom. Astrid quickly shut the curtains and turned to face her best friend.

"Ruff hey! I didn't expect you to still be up!" Astrid said hoping the dark room would prevent her pink cheeks being noticed.

"Yeah... I had a little workout of my own earlier." Ruff said leaning against the door frame and grinning. It took Astrid a few minutes to realise what she was meaning. She only clicked when she noticed Ruff was wearing an over-sized t-shirt that Astrid recalled Snotlout wearing... That very day.

"You guys?!" She whispered suddenly "Oh my gods you didn't?! Is he still here?!" Ruff laughed at her expression.

"Of course not! You think I'm letting him stay here? Plus I didn't know how long you'd be out."

"He only recently started chasing you more intently, how did this all happen so fast?"

"Because you clearly are going to start chasing Hiccup so he accepted that it really truly never is going to happen, which FYI he'd pretty much figured out anyway, so we decided to just fool around a bit. I expect it'll be more fun next time because we'll have been drinking." She sounded so casual. Astrid just couldn't believe she was hearing all this. It made no sense. Yes Ruff and Snotlout had always been a little rash but this was exceptional even for them.

"My Gods Ruff! We've been back a day! And what do you mean I'm 'clearly going to start chasing Hiccup'?! I don't chase anyone." She asked outraged, it might have an element of truth in it but she did NOT chase anyone. Especially Hiccup. Ruff chuckled.

"You won't have to chase him much I don't think. He's already there; it'll be more of sort of nudging him... Actually that's probably an understatement, you'll have to push him there to get him to actually notice anything and then pretty much drag him into bed naked before he gets the message." She said coolly looking down at her finger

nails. Astrid just opened and closed her mouth like a goldfish trying to find the right words to protest.

"That is... that is completely off the mark."

"Oh really? So you don't want to jump his bones?" Again she sounded so casual. Astrid stuttered and spluttered.

"That is not... I mean... Even you were staring earlier!"

"So you do want to?" Ruff asked grinning.

"No. Of course not... It's just, he looked so different. Good different. Really good. But I do not... It's Hiccup... Why would I..." She turned back to the window when there was a knock at the door.

"Hiccup?!" Astrid turned quickly and blurted the words before she had a chance to think it through. Ruff practically fell on the floor, her fist resting against her bedroom door.

"Oh you are sooo into him. I've never seen you jump like that! You were with Hiccup before you came back weren't you? Why else would you think he was here?" Ruff was almost crying with laughter. Astrid turned away glaring, her cheeks bright red.

"I hate you Ruff." She muttered darkly as she rested her head on her hands and peered out of the window.

"Aww come on. I was only curious. You were never going to admit it."

"I'm not admitting to it now. He walked me back is all... He caught me off guard. He's sweet. I do not want to 'jump his bones'."

"But if he was to ask you out what would you say?" Astrid bit her lip. What would she say? If he asked? She didn't even know how she felt. She thought it was just purely physical attraction... but those adorable things he had said, had they not been the reason she had pressed her lips to his? Did she not make the first move? Was she actually interested in Hiccup in more than just a physical attraction to his new body?

"You really don't know do you?" Ruff asked placing a hand on Astrid's shoulder and sounding suddenly serious. "Let's just see how things play out this week. Maybe you'll have a better idea after having a few drinks on Friday."

8. Chapter 8

Hiccup's head was still reeling when he got home. He felt elated, like he could fly without Toothless. Astrid had kissed him. She had definitely kissed him. It was not a dream, he could still taste her on his lips. What had changed? Everything. But deep down Hiccup feared the only real reason she showed any interest was because he looked a little different.

He walked up to his bedroom and collapsed onto his bed and thought over everything. First day of University and already he had more to

think about than he had the last three years. It was late and his mind was far too preoccupied to bother attempting any of the work he'd been set, nor to attempt lesson plans for the dragon riders. Instead he wandered across to his desk and pulled out his old notebooks and sketchpads. He thumbed through the pages, looking back at sketches from his travels and of Toothless to find the ones from years ago... Sketches of his class mates. Most was silly sketches that showed Snotlout looking stupid or the twins fighting, Fishlegs with books glued to him... There were some serious ones too... but it was his sketches of Astrid he sought out now. He found them there. There were still silly sketches of her beating up Snotlout (partly because he'd always wanted to see that) and then some where he'd simply drawn her exactly as she had been, or from memory or photos he'd seen on Facebook. His fingers ran over the ink lines of her face, remembering how it felt to touch the real thing. He could remember drawing these pictures; he always assumed it was as close as he would ever get to the real thing. A part of him still did.

Pulling his newer sketch pad towards him he began sketching out the lines of her face, flicking on his laptop and finding his old, unused Facebook account. He clicked onto Astrid's profile and stared at her photo. Looking carefully at it he drew her out once more, noting every minor feature of her face, every detail that showed how much she had grown, changed.

He was there for a while and would have been longer if Toothless hadn't started calling outside his window. Being late back, he'd deprived Toothless of an evening flight. Hiccup walked over and opened the window to speak to his dragon.

"Hey bud, I know I came back late, but I promise we'll go flying tomorrow. It's just too late now." The dragon grumbled unhappily back at him. "I know bud, I'm sorry... And I'm sorry but it was totally worth it. Astrid... aww man bud... She's even more amazing than I remember. She actually seemed nervous around me today. She dropped stuff, lost her words... Toothless at one point at least, she was staring at me." Hiccup realised how insanely happy these things made him as he told Toothless, then he came to tell him about the walk back, how he'd said more than he'd meant to... How she had kissed him.

>"Aww Toothless bud, I swear, it was like nothing I've ever experienced. For one minute, the world froze, nothing mattered except us in that minute." Toothless gave him a grumbled sort of noise. What did he care? This girl was the reason he'd missed his flight after all. "Aww come on bud. You know I've loved her since, well before I met you. Toothless, she kissed me! She did. I swear, nothing like it. I really felt like I could just fly off without wings..." Toothless growled indignantly at this statement. "Sorry bud, I didn't mean it like that. I just meant... It made me feel as ecstatic as I do when I fly with you. Course... she might not actually mean anything by it... But I won't worry about it now. For now, I have the memory." Toothless didn't seem to care. All he wanted was his flight tomorrow.<p>

9. Chapter 9

The week passed fairly uneventfully. Hiccup found his mind often wandered to Astrid, to that night together on the first day. His

thoughts had been with her so often, that he found himself riding his bike to the party she'd mentioned. He strolled in carelessly, despite feeling a little unsettled about being there. He threw his jacket and helmet to one side and walked into the loud chaotic room. His eyes searched for Astrid among the hundreds of people there. It didn't take long to find her. She was the centre of attention, as always. She danced and span oblivious to the eyes watching her every move, her dance was hypnotic. Hiccup stood with the crowds staring at her and smiled. She suddenly stopped and turned to look at him. Smiling she beckoned to him with a single finger and whispered "Get over here." Hiccup laughed and shook his head and hands. He did not dance. Especially not with other people watching. She stepped over to him and grabbed the front of his shirt. "I'm sorry, did I ask that? No. I told you. You don't get the choice." She teased and she pulled him by his shirt towards her to dance. Hiccup almost tripped over his own feet as she dragged him into clear view in the centre of the dance floor. He felt so insecure and uncertain as he stood there. She giggled and placed his hands on her hips and began to swing them in a dance. His hands were on her hips. This was just... impossible. He'd either wake up in a minute or get punched in the face. Surely she had a boyfriend? But had she not kissed him? He wasn't too sure what to do with his feet, or his hands, she moved and he just sort of stood somewhat awkwardly with her. She wasn't giving in so easily though. She made a sudden jerking motion and forced him to move his feet, as soon as they started moving she wouldn't let them stop, swirling twirling and sliding across the dance floor, leading him everywhere. As they carried on and others joined in, Hiccup found himself getting into the swing of it a little more. It was kind of amazing to have Astrid actually taking his hand, moving against him in a vibrant and heated dance. From somewhere close by he thought he could hear Fishlegs cheer and Ruffnut's screeching call of "Yeaaah! Go get him girl!" he even thought he could hear Tuffnut and Snotlout cheering! As they kept dancing, Hiccup found himself caring less and less about what people thought. It was quite fun! They paused in their dancing and Astrid dragged him over to Snotlout and the others who were leaning on the bar. "Nah, no drinks for me, I have to drive back." He said as she turned to ask what he wanted. She took a tray of shots and they each took one, except Hiccup that is. "Cheers guys! Here's to the end of our first week and surviving!" They all downed it at once; Astrid then passed Hiccup the empty glass and downed the extra.

>"Well well well. Look who it is." Came a snide voice and Astrid's expression darkened as Heather strode over. She wore a skirt so short she may as well not have worn it at all, and heels that looked impossible to walk in, her top was white and tiny, showing her black bra very clearly underneath it. Astrid scowled and snapped at her former best friend.
"Well would you look at that! It's a uni student party and we're all uni students and we're all here! How unbelievable! Would not have seen that coming, thank you for pointing that out Heather." She retorted, her voice dripping with sarcasm. Hiccup didn't remember her being so sarcastic. Heather scowled too. Her eyes then fell on Hiccup and she suddenly changed her attitude completely.

>"Oh hey Hiccup!" She said sweetly, stepping up to him and placing a hand on his chest, the other slipped up to his face and a single long finger coiled around a lock of his hair. He tensed and shifted his gaze away from her uncomfortably. He didn't notice Astrid's expression darken even more. "You look good Hiccup. Really good... What do you say you and I get out of here?" Heather crooned, her fingers tracing over his chest. At this point Astrid grabbed hold of

Hiccup's hand and said very quickly,<p>

"Come dance, it's my favourite song." And pulled him away from Heather's outstretched fingers. In actuality it wasn't her favourite song. In fact, she wasn't too sure what song it was, but she'd gotten Hiccup away from Heather so she didn't care. As they stepped onto the dance floor and began to dance Astrid groaned internally as she heard Ruff laugh at the song that was playing. 'You Belong with Me' by Taylor Swift. She glared daggers at Ruff for laughing, but it did seem oddly fitting. Hiccup laughed too, she did love that sound.

"This? This is your favourite song?" He said through fits of laughter. She punched his arm playfully and grinned.

>"No... I just thought you looked uncomfortable so I decided to drag you to dance."
"You could have just said 'let's dance'"

>"I didn't think it through ok." She said blushing slightly and brushing her hair back out of her face. "But it got you out of her grasp so who cares?"
"Did you do it for you or for me?"

>"And why does that matter? You didn't look like you appreciated her advances."
"I didn't but I'm just curious. Did it bother you her advances at me?"

>"No. Of course it didn't why would you think that?" She tried to snap but feeling colour rush to her cheeks.
"I didn't really think that, I was just asking. You seemed a little keen to get me out of there. And you know kissing me the other day might have misled me somewhat too." Now she knew she was blushing. She tried to act as though it was no big deal, but she couldn't deny the racing beating of her heart. He'd feel it in a minute, but he didn't let go. He was still holding her and didn't seem likely to let her go anytime soon. Her heart raced, because she realised, she didn't mind, she didn't want him to let her go.

>"Yeah well... I blame you entirely for that."
"What?! How was it my fault that you kissed me?"

>"You were stupidly sweet! Insanely cute and you looked so freaking good! All that combined with the adorable things you were saying, and brushing my hair out of my face and such..."
"What you mean like this?" He interrupted brushing her hair back behind her ear, grinning stupidly.

>"Yes like that, and then you do that stupid crooked smile!"
"What this smile? You like this smile?"

>"Yes, it's cute and kind of endearing..."
"Really? I would never have believed that. Your smile is cute, mine really isn't"

"Shut up."

>"Why?"
"Just shut up!"

>"Why?"
"Because you're being cute again. Modest and cute."

>"And that bothers you?"
"Yes. No. I don't know. Just stop talking."

>"Why?"
"Just stop!"

>"Why?"
"Because..."

>"Because whaa..." She cut him off midsentence by pressing her lips firmly against his. She seemed to have forgotten they were in the middle of the dance floor, surrounded by a lot of people, several of whom had paused in their dancing to stare at the two arguing and still dancing even when the music stopped. Hiccup didn't much care. His arms gripped her tightly, as he kissed her back enthusiastically. He felt Astrid smile into the kiss, her own arms holding onto him as she melted into him, into the kiss. Nothing else mattered right then. When they finally broke apart the whole room was silent. Then there was a sudden out cry of "Hell yes! Yes! You go girl!" and Hiccup

laughed sheepishly as Astrid groaned at her best friend's outburst. Ruffnut had actually punched the air in her enthusiasm for their sudden unexpected kiss.
"You want to get out of here?" He asked her nervously, suddenly feeling the intense gaze of everyone in the room including his cousin.

>"Gods yes." Astrid replied and she slipped her arm around his waist and they walked out of the party, calm as anything. Pausing only so Hiccup could grab his jacket and helmet before climbing onto the back of his bike. Her arms wrapped around his waist and she pressed against him as they drove off into the night.<p>

10. Chapter 10

Hiccup could not have been happier when he pulled up outside the uni on Monday morning. The weekend had been an amazing blur. It started Friday night with Astrid kissing him openly at the uni party and had ended with Saturday and Sunday being wasted in her company, flying with Toothless and Stormfly and just generally messing around. They'd even met with the others Saturday evening and they hadn't acted so anti towards him as they used to. Snotlout even seemed to speak to Hiccup in a way that suggested he might respect him!

>To make things even better, Astrid had kissed him again on numerous occasions over the course of the weekend. Sometimes she seemed to do it to shut him up, not that he minded at all. He actually considered babbling more just to get her to do it again. He got such a rush every time their lips met. He parked the bike up and strode in happily to his tutor room. The others were already there and to his surprise, they greeted him enthusiastically.
"Hey it's Hiccup!" Snotlout yelled excited, "Come over here!" He called and he beckoned Hiccup to join them. Tuffnut gave him a thumbs up and Fishlegs smiled and waved.

>"What's up Hotcup?" Ruff said as he sat down.
"Hot...Hotcup?" He asked confused as Snotlout pouted.

>"Yeah, new nickname for you, it's spreading like wildfire. See your name is HicCUP and now you're HOT so now you're HOTCUP. Get it?" She said casually grinning. Hiccup just stared dumbfounded until an arm snaked around him and another grabbed his hair and tugged it so he tipped his head back to look at the ceiling, yelping in pain.
"Oww!" He moaned and opened his eyes to gaze into the blue orbs of his attacker. Astrid. "What did you do that for?!" He complained as she grinned and bent her face over his, placing a very firm kiss on his lips, even if it was upside-down, he didn't mind.

>"Good morning to you too." She breathed, grinning.
"Some greeting... Next time, can we do that without the hair pulling?" He asked her rubbing the back of his head where she'd pulled his hair as she walked round and sat beside him.

>"Hmmm maybe." She teased, Heather then slid into the room and Astrid rested her head on his shoulder and held onto his arm somewhat possessively, not that Hiccup cared too much. It was quite nice really, for someone to actually feel possessive over him. Especially as it was Astrid. She stared daggers at Heather as the raven-head slid her hands across the desks and came snaking to a halt in front of Hiccup, acting as if Astrid wasn't even there.
"Hey Hiccup... Looking good today. Leather really works on you. You been at the gym all weekend cos you're looking pretty pumped..." She crooned, a hand reaching out to stroke his bicep and slide across his chest. Hiccup flinched involuntarily at her touch. Astrid actually snarled beside him. Her hand struck Heather's with a loud smack and she hissed, her

words dripping with acid,

>"Get your hands off him." Ruff stared. Fishlegs stared. Snotlout stared. Tuff stared. Heather stared, though admittedly with a small scowl that turned into a smug smile. Everyone stopped to stare. No one was staring as much as Hiccup though. That was an icy voice he knew from seeing her angry in the past was a death sentence... he never expected her to ever use it when talking about HIM.
"I'm sorry... Didn't catch that Astrid." Heather said in a sickeningly sweet voice, a fake yet smug smile plastered across her face.

>"I said..." Astrid growled, getting to her feet and relinquishing her death grip on Hiccup's arm "Get your hands off him." Her eyes were sparkling dangerously as she glared at Heather. Hiccup thought Heather would be wise to step down rather than risk getting killed. She didn't seem bothered and smirking she practically draped herself across Hiccup's chest, Astrid really did look murderous at this point. In a way, Hiccup liked it, Astrid not liking another girl touching him... at the same time, it terrified him.
"Maybe I like touching him... maybe he likes it too." Hiccup went to reply and insist he really didn't like it... But Astrid wouldn't have heard anyway.

>"If he liked it he wouldn't be pulling a face like someone just force fed him an eel. I expect this kind of thing from you. You just flirt with any guy, especially those that aren't available." Astrid yanked Heather back by her hair and then planted a very firm and sudden kiss on Hiccup's lips. The initial surprise and force of it knocked him for a second, but he quickly recovered, closing his eyes and melting into the kiss, holding her tightly as their lips remained locked. When they broke apart... even more people were staring, Hiccup grinned sheepishly and scratched the back of his head nervously. Astrid looked unabashed. Heather smirked more.
"Maybe I do... But mostly I like flirting with hot guys you'll never be able to keep." At this Astrid lunged forwards and Hiccup only had a split second to grab her before she hit Heather. The girl recoiled from Astrid's outstretched fist and Ruff grinned as Hiccup pulled Astrid back, causing her to end up sat in his lap.

>"Smooth move Hotcup." Ruff said grinning like a Cheshire cat. Heather slinked away as Gobber walked in, wanting to avoid the drama under his gaze... Astrid was pretty much Gobber's golden girl. Astrid melted back into Hiccup's arms. He liked her there, she fitted and it felt right. Gobber raised an eyebrow at Hiccup questioningly. Gobber was the other father in Hiccup's life sometimes. Hiccup just smiled and wrapped his arms around Astrid more tightly, feeling happier to be in this place than he could ever remember feeling.<p>

11. Chapter 11

Astrid settled herself back into Hiccup's hold. She hadn't realised just how much stronger he was, sure she'd seen he'd changed from the muscles, and he had to be stronger with the weight lifting and there had been something strong in the way he held her... But then... When he wanted to stop her hitting Heather, there had been a surprising amount of force and strength... Why did she like that so much? She loved the feeling of him holding her there. His arms held her tightly and she felt happy against his chest, the steady thump of his heart beating through his ribcage... She loved it, his warmth radiated off him and through her. She wondered if that was all that made her feel so warm and well, hot. She didn't even care that Gobber and the others were all staring at her, sitting on Hiccup's lap, his arms around her.

>Ruff raised her eyebrows in a suggestive manner and grinned at Astrid. She tried to glare at her best friend but found herself grinning instead, making Ruff snicker. She turned to look at Gobber instead but didn't bother to shift off Hiccup's lap. She was quite comfortable.
"Alright you lot. Second week. For those of you doing Dragon Training... Your lessons will start this afternoon. Don't be late. Now get lost!" Gobber bellowed and they began shifting out, Astrid slipped off Hiccup's lap, more reluctantly than she cared to admit.

>"Oh and Astrid, after school your training program starts. Be there on time would you?" Gobber called glancing at Hiccup as he said the last sentence. Astrid opened her mouth with the intention of protesting about the glance towards Hiccup... Then closed it and shrugged. She kissed Hiccup again and then walked out, calm as anything, Ruff running after her giggling madly and leaving Hiccup and half the class looking dumbstruck.<p>

"Well, that wasn't at all what I expected!" Ruff called as she followed Astrid down the corridor to her locker.

>"Ruff... Don't go there..."
"That was pretty feisty. I mean I knew you were feisty, and I know you hate Heather's guts, but even for you... If Hiccup hadn't been there, you'd have decked her. And daayyyymmm when did he get so strong? Maybe I'll quit with Snotlout and tap that instead." Astrid shot her a death glare. "Woah I was kidding but man your reactions are perfect. You are soooo into him."

>"Ok, maybe I like him and damn right I'd have decked Heather." She flung her locker open, perhaps a little more violently than she had intended.
"You two were quite cute actually, sat on his lap with his arms around you..."

>"Shut up." Astrid spat, hiding her smile behind her locker door.
"You going to hit that?"

>"Ruff!"
"Oh my Gods you already did didn't you?! You go girl!"

>"I did not 'hit that'... Besides it's not like..."
"Are you telling me he turned you down?"

>"I did not..."
"Oh... Wow, did he seriously turn you down?"

>"Ruff I did not throw myself at him or jump into bed like you do! Hiccup's actually a decent guy, he won't just jump into bed even if I tried it."
"True... You'd be in the middle of it before he realised what was happening..."

>"He's not that oblivious!"
"He's not getting the hint clearly!"

>"I'm not hinting at anything!"
"Then you're as oblivious as he is."

>"I think I'd know if I was..."
"Well you are so..."

>"Am not!"
"If you were a dragon you'd be biting his tail and displaying your belly to him... Wait no the belly thing is lions... You get the picture..."

>"Ruff I am not..."
"Hey what's going on?" Fishlegs was walking over with Hiccup. "You guys ready for chemistry?"

>"Astrid is but she won't admit it." Ruff teased, grinning. Astrid glared at her.
"That is completely off the mark!"

>"Is it really though? I mean, below the belt I could understa..."
"Ok we'll see you there, toilets!" Astrid snapped, dragging Ruff off before she could finish her sentence. "What is the matter with you?!" Ruff slid down the toilet wall laughing at her.

>"Me?! Oh gods your face. I don't think I've ever seen you react like

that! That was even funnier than when we were in the apartment and I knocked and you called out his name... Oh gods... This is going to be fun."
"You do anything... I'll..."
"You'll what? You got nothing on me!"
"But I will! Just you wait!" Ruff laughed again. "Just, no more jokes please? Until I figure this out a little more?"
"Astrid, if you haven't figured out yet that you like him... Then I don't know how to make that any clearer."
"Then don't try, let's just get to chemistry."
"Yeah maybe it'll make things clear... you know... it's chemistry?!"
Astrid scowled and Ruff grinned as they exited the toilets.<p>

"I know I said this last week but... Did you understand any of that?" Hiccup asked as he and Fishlegs walked towards chemistry.
"Oddly enough I did. Ruff was making insinuations about you and Astrid, Astrid did not approve. It's not that difficult to understand."
"I got the whole Astrid didn't like it... and I figured about the insinuations... But I don't understand what..."

>"Dude... She's hot for you." Tuffnut clapped Hiccup's shoulder as he passed. "Astrid doesn't just make out with anyone. Trust me! I chipped a tooth for trying about a year back!" He laughed. Hiccup gagged.
"You... You tried to make out with Astrid?"
"Yeah, just about everyone has! You're the only one to succeed. If she's kissing you dude... She's definitely hot for you. You're in!" He grinned and clapped Hiccup's shoulder again. "See you in maths you lucky bastard." Hiccup turned to look at Fishlegs stunned but found he had a stupid grin plastered on his face.
"You're loving this aren't you?" Fishlegs asked as they waited to enter.
"Kinda yeah." He tried to stop smirking. "Oh come on, I just got told Astrid Hofferson likes me... You know I've liked her since..."
"You were about 5?"
"Pretty much... And then to be told that I'm the only guy she's kissed like that? Fish, for me this is as good as life gets!"
"Well get ready, it might get better... I'm certain it will but hey, I won't jinx it."
"Won't jinx what?" Astrid asked walking over, Ruff behind her still grinning.
"Hiccup's sex life." Fishlegs shrugged.
"Woah! Fishlegs!" Both Hiccup and Ruff exclaimed as Astrid stared open-mouthed at him. "Since when did you answer back with witty comments?!" Ruff laughed, staring at him with newfound respect.
"Umm... I dunno... I really don't know where that came from... Gods Astrid please don't break my teeth!" Astrid stared and then relaxed and held out her hand for Fishlegs to shake.
"That was very witty and quick for you. I have to give you credit for that." Stunned, Fishlegs shook her hand, laughing nervously. "Make a joke like that again..." She squeezed his fingers in a death grip "And I'll punch you." She warned letting go of his hand.
"Damn that's a lethal grip... Hope you don't use that on Hiccup's junk..." Fishlegs said before covering his mouth in surprise, just before Astrid's fist walloped him in the stomach.

12. Chapter 12

Hiccup tried to remain focussed on his chemistry work, but it was difficult with Astrid sat in front of him and a little to the side. It was as though she was trying to be distracting, sitting there, completely flawless. Her slender legs crossed beneath the desk, one

booted foot tapping frustrated against the stool edge as she tried to make sense of the equations on the board. Her hair constantly tumbling around her face, falling out of her loose braid, causing her to shift to fix it. As her arms reached up to adjust her hair, her chest rose and Hiccup found himself staring at the perfect curves beneath her t-shirt. Why oh why was it so fitted? It was fitted so beautifully tightly that he could almost make out the lines of her bra beneath it. He forced himself to look away from her chest and watched her nimble fingers moving quickly and swiftly to braid her hair, tugging it into place, brushing through it gently, tying the hair band with such dexterity...

>He shook his head as unwelcome thoughts from some dark corner of his mind crept forward. Chemistry. Chemistry he told himself. I must focus on my chemistry work. I can do chemistry. I'm good at it.
_"__Are you good at this kind of chemistry though?"_ The voice in the back of his head whispered.

>Yes. I'm... well no... I don't seem to get it... Wait no. I am not going to think about whatever chemistry there might or might not be with Astrid he told the voice.
_"__Oh there's chemistry alright. Even Fishlegs saw it."

>Shut up. I'm trying to focus here. But that was proving difficult. Every equation seemed to send him spiralling back to Astrid. He consulted the periodic table of elements and spotted Au... Gold. Astrid was the Golden Girl. Her hair was golden too... No, stop that Hiccup! He physically flinched in annoyance and glanced back to the board, trying not to notice Astrid turning her pen over in her fingers and biting her lip and she tried to work out the answer.

>Ok... When the two elements are put into a catalyst and heated, you may get a positive reaction... He wondered if Fishlegs was right, if things would get heated with Astrid.

>You get a positive reaction. Man, what he wouldn't give for her to have a positive reaction to him. But according to Tuffnut... She already had. He still felt oddly proud that she'd never taken to another guy like she had to him. Focus Hiccup focus!

>Occasionally a spark will occur... There was some sort of spark with Astrid. She dropped her pen and slid effortlessly off her stool to retrieve it. The sight of her ass in her skinny jeans sent sparks through Hiccup's brain. Damn she was distracting. Focus!

>When chemicals react... Chemicals were certainly reacting in Hiccup to the sight of Astrid's ass, and now she was stretching, and there was the line of her bra again... Hiccup bit his lip. Every gesture she made was sending his brain into frenzy. He hated the chemistry, but he loved it. He was thankful he wasn't in biology and sat with Fishlegs muttering about 'biological urges'. Oh shit... Hiccup thought. Now I AM thinking about biological urges. Astrid sighed frustrated and turned to glance around the room, her eyes found his as he stared at her and he blushed scarlet. She smiled at him, gestured towards the board and rolled her eyes. He knew she wasn't getting it, but right now nor was he. All he was getting were some very irritating thoughts from that dark part of his brain and the fact that this beautiful girl, this this... goddess, was looking at HIM and smiling and joking.

>His pen was still on his paper and trailing over it absentmindedly as he looked at her.
"Astrid would you face the front please." The teacher barked. Astrid rolled her eyes again, gave Hiccup a brilliant smile and turned away. His eyes didn't leave her figure. How could anyone be so perfect? It was beyond Hiccup, and it was certainly

completely beyond him why she would show an interest in him. Not that he was complaining, just surprised, really surprised. His eyes raked over every inch of her, from the toes of her worn out combat boots, up her slender legs where her peachy flesh was visible through the tears in her jeans, over her flat belly which had that perfect toned look beneath her shirt, he knew that from the evening in the gym. He felt suddenly flushed as he recalled that tiny Lycra crop top and little running shorts. His eyes carried on travelling, admiring the curves of her chest, the slope of her elegant neck, the lines of her face, each curve that was upon it. Drinking in each sun kissed freckle, every wrinkle on her nose or brow as she concentrated. He looked at her hair, now braided to perfection, every golden strand in place. He marvelled at her, for once, his studies seemed so very unimportant, so very dull in comparison to the beauty in front of him.

>The lesson finally ended and Hiccup had done almost no work. The extent of his work, he was embarrassed to see, were doodles of Astrid or her name scribbled occasionally over the page. Blushing he crumpled up the sheet and shoved it in his satchel, he'd do the equations later when there was no Astrid to distract him. He hustled out of the classroom, trying not to look at the smirk of Fishlegs' face.
"You seemed a little distracted." His friend commented, catching him up.

>"Shut up Fish."
"Just saying, I think your eyes left Astrid maybe three times?"

>"Fish I said shut up." Hiccup growled through gritted teeth, speeding up to get away. Fishlegs just caught him up again.
"I saw you doodling on your page... I've never seen you that distracted. You used to stare at her before but never that intently. You were watching her every move. And I saw you checking out her figure..." Hiccup turned around and snapped at Fishlegs with surprising aggression in his voice.

>"I said shut up Fish!" Fishlegs stared at him surprised. Hiccup felt ashamed of himself for yelling at his friend and looked away, walking off quickly. Once again though, Fishlegs caught him up.
"Hey ok I'm sorry. But you really were very distracted." Hiccup let out a deep sigh.

>"I don't know what's come over me Fish... Usually, I'm really focussed, but lately... I dunno. I just couldn't keep my mind on anything in that lesson. All I could think about was her."
"I think my friend, you're smitten." Fishlegs teased clapping a hand to Hiccup's shoulder. "Don't worry about it, its normal. You're smitten with her and she is beautiful and you're an eighteen year old boy. You're bound to stare. Just try and think of really disgusting things when you get distracted, then it won't show so much." He winked and hurried on before Hiccup could make sense of what he'd just said.

13. Chapter 13

Hiccup strode into the canteen feeling oddly nervous. This afternoon he'd begin teaching the dragon training course. He felt terrified by the prospect. He also still felt rather distracted and a little unsettled by the morning chemistry lesson. Biology had not helped with that at all. And Tuff's grinning face in maths had done little to assist him in focussing on things other than Astrid. He wandered around looking for his usual corner table, the one with the bent leg so you had to eat at an angle. It was always empty and so it was always where he sat, alone. He found it in its usual corner and sat

sighing onto its lopsided bench. At that moment a bright red dinner tray slammed down in front of him making him jump. That one was followed by another, and another, and another. Hiccup looked up and saw Ruff, Tuff, Fish and Snotlout all taking a seat on his table. He felt surprised by their sudden appearance given that they usually sat in the centre of the room being the centre of attention.

>"Budge up Tuff!" Snotlout moaned
"Just sit over there!"

>"Astrid will knock out my teeth and I don't want to end up looking like you!"
"Oh both of you shut up"

>"No room, I'm sitting on you Snot."
"Eurgh! I'm sat right here! That's my best friend you're sitting on Ruff and it's gross!"

>"Get over it! Fish you sit with Hiccup."
"And get punched again? No thank you!" Hiccup stared somewhat confused, very surprised, and a little offended that no one would sit next to him and instead crammed onto one uneven bench together. Then again... getting punched by Astrid was no laughing matter, but she wasn't here so why did it matter?

>"And here comes the golden girl herself." Ruff smirked from Snotlout's lap, a disgusted looking Tuff squashed between them and Fishlegs. Hiccup turned and saw Astrid walking over, a red tray clutched in her hands, she was glaring at her food as if it had done something to offend her as she sat down beside Hiccup, shifting so she was pressed right against him and moving one hand to hold onto his own, without looking away from her food.
"Errr, why are you glaring at that salad like it offended you?" Hiccup asked tentatively, worried he might offend her with his question and also receive a death glare.

>"Because it's a salad."
"Err... What?"

>"She hates eating salad." Ruff laughed, tucking into a bacon sandwich with little concern.
"Why did you order salad if you hate it?" He asked as she skewered a piece of lettuce onto her fork with a small red tomato.

>"Because it's good for me and I have to eat healthy if I want to come out on top again this year." She spat angrily at the tomato as she shovelled the salad into her mouth.
"You do an insane amount of exercise, the salad isn't going to make much difference. Besides... You need protein too." And he snatched Ruff's bacon sandwich from her and passed it to Astrid. "If I know anything about you, it's that even if you ate all the bacon in the school kitchens, you'd have burnt it all off by the time you went to sleep tonight." He grinned at her. "You don't need to be watching what you eat, you're perfect as you are." She looked away from her pitiful salad finally and looked at him instead, a small blush formed in her cheeks, and he felt it mirrored in his own. She smiled and took the bacon sandwich from him but passed it back to Ruff who snatched it angrily.

>"Thanks babe, but I'm not going to steal Ruff's food. I'll be fine with the salad." Babe. She called him babe. He practically leapt to his feet and walked off, returning a moment later with a bacon sandwich which he presented to Astrid, grinning madly.
"Then I'll just give you your own." He laughed, retaking his seat beside her. She looked from the sandwich to Hiccup and beamed, grabbing the back of his head and pulling his face to hers to kiss him.

>"Thanks babe." She whispered, her forehead resting on his, her eyes closing softly. He closed his own eyes, simply enjoying being there with her, and hearing her call him that.
"Eurgh that is sickeningly sweet. He got her a bacon sandwich... Eurgh... Wait it's too cute... I have to photograph this. Stay right there..." Ruff pulled out her phone and snapped a photo causing them both to turn

and look at her. "What?" She shrugged. "I'm going to collect photos of you two as your relationship blossoms and develops and then make a cutie little album for you to croon over at your wedding." They both stared at her.

>"Wha...what?!" Hiccup spluttered and Astrid hid her face in his neck, her cheeks now bright red.
"Yeah... I'm just going to randomly snap all these cute photos... Plus, with Hiccup being well known, you never know, maybe I can sell them one day and make a fortune." Hiccup spluttered incoherently for almost a full minute, his cheeks reddening. Given that he hadn't actually asked Astrid out... He didn't really know what they were... Ruff suggesting they were in a relationship and might one day get married was a little forward. Astrid finally removed her face from his neck making him feel suddenly colder without her warm breath on his skin. She was still blushing but picked up the sandwich and began eating her way through it. Her expression priceless as she enjoyed the considerably more filling meal.

>"Better?" Hiccup grinned, finally ceasing in his spluttering and staring awkwardly at Ruff. Astrid nodded.
"Loads better. I'll just burn it off after school."

>"It doesn't need burning off."
"It will."

>"Eurgh stop being cute!" Ruff growled, but grinning at them nonetheless.
Hiccup enjoyed the company over the lunch break, chatting and laughing as they ate; he especially enjoyed Astrid leaning against him casually. He loved hearing her laugh. The sound was like music to his ears. He couldn't help but laugh at Tuff's expression every time Ruff and Snot did anything, even if it was just looking at each other. Finally though he needed to leave to finish getting ready for the lessons this afternoon. Astrid groaned as he informed them he had to go.

>"Whhhhy?" She complained, her head still resting comfortably on him. "I'm comfy. Just stay put." She nestled herself more comfortably against him, seemingly determined not to move.
"I can't, I have to get ready for this afternoon."

>"It's dragon training this afternoon. What do you need to get ready? You and Toothless are the best anyway, all you have to do is turn up." She grumbled as he stood up. She sat upright and pouted to show her annoyance at his leaving. He grinned down at her, picking up his satchel.
"I'm flattered that you're so annoyed at my leaving... But I've got to go. You'll understand later." She glared and then looked away pointedly, pouting even more at his last statement. He rolled his eyes, still grinning and bent down to kiss her cheek. "Sorry babe." He whispered in her ear. The corners of her mouth twitched upwards and she turned to face him, his lips brushing hers instead of her cheek. She didn't seem bothered in the slightest as she kissed him back enthusiastically. He almost gave up on the idea of leaving to stay there and kiss her. His arms slipped around her with growing familiarity as hers snaked up over his chest, one hand holding onto his shoulder the other shifting up his neck so her fingers became entwined within the mess of auburn he called hair. He found himself straightening up and Astrid simply stood with him, her head tilting upwards to prevent their lips parting, his arms pulling her closer to him, holding her up. There was a click and a flash and they broke apart to look at the source. Ruff shrugged.

>"That's photo number two. I wonder how many I can get in one day?"<p>

Astrid stretched out and leaned against the wall of the Dragon Academy. How long did it take for a teacher to open the gates? She wanted to see Stormfly. And where exactly was Hiccup? He'd gone off at lunch to get ready for this afternoon so why wasn't he here yet? She scanned the grounds searching for his lithe yet powerful figure. Her mind wandered down various paths concerning that figure and as the sun beat down on her, warming her thoroughly, she wondered how hot he could make her feel. If she could make him hot. She began thinking about his chest, his abs... that night at the gym, and wondered if she could get him topless again without the weights in the way. She wondered how much of his clothing she could remove...

>"Yoohoo Earth to Astrid! You still with us?!" Ruff's voice echoed through her deep dark thoughts of Hiccup.
"Whaa... What?" She said, snapping out of her daze, and trying not to let her mind focus on what Hiccup's ass looked like under his trousers.

>"Someone's mind was CLEARLY elsewhere." Ruff asked with a mischievous wink. Astrid hit her friend on the shoulder.
"Was not!" She protested, lying through her teeth.

>"Oh really? Does Hiccup have a six pack?" She asked.
"Yeah... Not overly defined, but it's there. And it is good." Astrid sighed contentedly.

>"Told ya!"
"I'm going by what I saw in the gym!" She snapped.

>"Because you haven't thought about it since then right?"
"Not... That I mean. You and Snotlout had sex. I am allowed to think about what Hiccup looked like shirtless!" She retaliated.

>"Excuse me?" Came Hiccup's voice and she blushed scarlet from the top of her head to the tips of her toes. "Did I hear that correctly? You were thinking about me shirtless?" Hiccup asked, walking up out of the academy to them, a stupidly happy crooked smile on his face.
"I never... I didn't..." She stuttered... STUTTERED! She, Astrid Hofferson was stuttering! Again! And because of Hiccup!

>"So you weren't thinking about me shirtless?" He asked, a teasing smile on his face but she almost saw disappointment flicker over his face.
"I never said that..."

>"So you were?"
"I umm... Where is the teacher anyway?" She asked nervously, rubbing her arm embarrassed.

>"You're looking at him." Hiccup said, spreading his arms in gesture and grinning deviously.
"What, you...?" Astrid said staring.

>"Awww no fair! Astrid is gonna fuck the teacher and get better grades!" Ruff complained and both Astrid and Hiccup blushed. Astrid might allow herself to think about Hiccup in ways she really shouldn't... But she couldn't imagine Hiccup was that kind. And besides... They hadn't actually decided what they were and she wasn't the kind just to jump into bed with anyone... Not that Hiccup was anyone...
"Gobber still marks the work too, besides. It's not so much grades as it is increasing our knowledge and understanding of our companions. If I give you homework or assignments..." His eyes sparkled in a way that made Astrid tingle all over; she was oblivious to Ruff, Tuff and Snot's groans of protest. "...It'll be just to check you've been paying attention." Since when did Hiccup have such a sexy devilish attitude? He wasn't like this before was he?

>"Who's going to make sure you keep your focus?" Ruff demanded.

"After all, you can't stop staring at Astrid at any time, you never could. How will you stay focussed teaching when her ass is on

display?"
"I'm pretty sure Astrid doesn't openly display her ass."

>"Damn I thought I could use that to distract you from homework."
Ruff commented.
"Excuse me?" Astrid snapped.
>"Don't worry she's jealous." Tuff informed her.
"What?!"

>"Yeah... She always moans your ass is nicer."
"Is it?" Snot went to look and Astrid hit his face.

>"I'd say so." Hiccup commented now staring at her behind, glancing at Ruff's and shaking his head and focussing on Astrid's again, his eyes looking up her body, scanning her every curve in a way that both thrilled and unnerved her.
"Did you...?!" She gasped. Since when did Hiccup stare at asses?! Since when did he get this confident? When did he get this damned sexy and why the hell did she want to kiss him so badly and rip off that stupidly hot tight leather jacket?! She took a step forwards. He grinned, still crooked, but more confident and playful. He matched her, stepping forward like it was a game of chicken. She took another step forwards.

>"Are you challenging me now Hiccup?" She breathed.
"Maybe..." He chuckled, taking another step forwards. "Does that bother you?"

>"In ways it really shouldn't." She grinned, stepping forwards again. They were so close now... But what would his next move be? He was only a step away from her, if that.
"I like the sound of that." He teased, he didn't step forwards this time, he simply reached out and grabbed her around the waist with one arm and pulled her into him.

>"Do you?" She gasped, surprised by him, but enjoying it. "What are you going to do then?"
"This." And he kissed her. Deeply. Passionately. Intently. His hands moved over her back, one sliding up and holding her at the base of her neck, keeping her close to him, the other slipped right down and rested comfortably on her ass. Her eyes widened in surprise at that move, but she couldn't have cared less as her arms wrapped around him, her lips happily responding to his. She stood on her tiptoes to reach him better. His lips parted from hers briefly and his eyes opened slightly, and he grinned at her.

>"Be my girlfriend?" He breathed, a grin still plastered on his face, their lips barely a breath apart.
"What?" She asked surprised, hands never releasing him. "Yes! Of course!" And their lips met again, with even more enthusiasm and passion. They didn't even notice Ruff's phone snap a photo, they were far too preoccupied with each other.

15. Chapter 15

Hiccup was busy talking and gesturing to diagrams on a classic old blackboard he must have dug up from the depths of beyond. Astrid tried to pay attention... But it wasn't easy. She could see him moving, but his words just weren't sinking in. Plus, it didn't help that every time he turned to write on the blackboard she got a view of his ass in those tight trousers. Stormfly chirped from behind her, as if reminding her she should be paying attention.

>"Eurgh Hiccup stop talking. Astrid isn't paying attention. She's busy looking at your ass and fantasising..." Tuffnut said, grinning broadly. Hiccup stopped and looked her way, her elbow slipped off the makeshift desks he'd put in there and her head slumped forwards. Hiccup grinned at her and she turned pink. "Told ya!" She turned around and punched Tuff on his arm. "Ow! Denial! She's sooo hot for you!" She hit him again. "See?!" And again. "Ok now this is starting to hurt." She groaned and turned around. Hiccup was still

grinning.
"For what it's worth... If it was you standing up here, I wouldn't be paying much attention." He said, but the sparkle in his eyes spoke volumes more than his words did. She blushed scarlet; she'd never considered the fact that Hiccup might... Well, fantasise... Think about girls in that way. She suddenly felt irrationally jealous at the idea that he'd probably fantasised about other girls.

>"Come on! I actually WANT to be learning something!" Fishlegs moaned. "Can you two just shove your filthy fantasies to one side for a couple of hours so Hiccup can focus on teaching?! You can ravage each other in all manner of dirty ways Astrid is currently thinking of after the lesson... Even if you can't hold back till you get home... Just try not to let the dragons see..." Astrid stood up to hit Fishlegs but Ruff hit her for her, she settled.
"Idiot! You don't talk about it! If they do that... They don't want to think we know! They won't do it now and you'll have to put up with another days sexual frustration!" WHAM! Astrid's fist made contact with Ruff's shoulder. Just because she was THINKING about filthy things she COULD do with Hiccup... Did not mean she was GOING to do them! Yet.

>Hiccup was also blushing. "I think you guys are a little ahead of us. Just because Ruff will jump straight into bed with a guy, and Snot and Tuff, we all know neither of you would hold back if a girl tried to jump you... Doesn't mean we're like that."<p>

"Can we get back to teaching now... Please?!" Fish complained. Still blushing, Hiccup turned back to the board and attempted to continue teaching them about their dragon companions. For a while everyone paid attention, made notes... Even if Astrid lost focus every now and then... But the remainder of the lesson passed without much issue, the occasional snicker from Tuff and groan of boredom from Snotlout or Ruff. They then spent the last half hour simply with their dragons doing target practice, the promise of flying tomorrow was all too enticing.

>The bell went and everyone began packing up and saying goodbye to their dragons. Except Toothless and Meatlug, they'd both be returning to Hiccup and Fishlegs' houses. The others would be remaining here over night... Again. Astrid hated having to leave Stormfly here, but there was no room for her to stay at the student apartment block. She stood for a while with her dragon, she didn't notice the others leave... Everyone except Hiccup.<p>

She looked so sad to be leaving Stormfly. He hated how sad she looked, but he loved seeing how much she loved her dragon.

>"Hey, you alright?" He asked walking over to her, Toothless close behind him.
"Hiccup! I didn't realise... oh um..." She brushed her hair back in that shy nervous way she did, he smiled more, he loved that she got nervous around him nowadays. It was reassuring.

>"Everyone left pretty quick... I think Hookfang and Barf and Belch are pretty offended. At least you stayed for a bit with Stormfly."
"I hate leaving her here, I know she always did, but she didn't have to, sometimes she'd be outside my house... I just hate that now she can't. I feel bad shutting her away every night." He gave her a sympathetic smile as she looked at Stormfly and stroked her snout gently.

>"So... Don't."
"What?"

>"Don't shut her away at night."
"If you're suggesting I let her fly around the campus at night or outside the apartment block..."

>"She can stay with me and Toothless..."
"What?!"

>"I just... I just meant, Toothless has a huge stable that he sleeps in, I don't see why Stormfly can't stay there too... Then at least she's not shut away every night. She can come with Toothless here... or you could come pick her up in the mornings... Come visit her at weekends..." He ran his hand through his hair and scratched the back of his head nervously.
"You do know you don't have to make excuses to see me? I've already said I'll be your girlfriend." She said, grinning at him and taking a step towards him.

>"Ha..." He laughed nervously. "I guess I can't quite believe that yet... But I mean what I said; Stormfly can always come stay with Toothless."
"Thanks... I think Stormfly would like that..." She took another step towards him and the Nadder moved out of his field of vision. He started stuttering again.

>"Well, you know it's really no problem... She's always welcome..."
"I appreciate that, so does she; she'd like to stay with Toothless." Her eyes never left his face; there was an almost dangerous look in her eyes... But not in a bad way. Hiccup wanted to know what that look was all about... She stepped forwards again.

>"And I mean... You're always welcome too..."
"Good... I'm pleased to hear that..." She took a step closer to him, his pulse quickened.

>"And if there's ever anything you need..." She was getting so close now, it was both thrilling and terrifying. "...I'll do anything I can to help..."
"There might be something I need right now..." Her words were like whispered promises of things yet to come, drawing him in like a siren song.

>"Then just tell me what I can do."
"Just stand there..."

>"Why?" He stuttered taking a step back, only to have Toothless shove him forwards two steps.
"Thanks Toothless, why don't you and Stormfly go for a little flight?" The dragons were only too happy to obey, leaving Hiccup completely at Astrid's mercy... Wait... She was his girlfriend now wasn't she? Why was he still afraid of her? He didn't need to be afraid now... she'd made it abundantly clear that she liked him... she'd even acted jealous and stared at him... He'd stared at her and she hadn't killed him... His mind was reeling again and then went blissfully blank once more. Astrid had grabbed him roughly and pulled him to her, jamming her lips against his and kissing him passionately. He was only too happy to respond. He closed his eyes melting into the kiss, his arms wrapping around her in that increasingly familiar way, actually lifting her off her feet. Her arms suddenly wrapped around him and somehow everything became more intense. He pushed her against the academy wall and her legs wrapped around his waist, her fingers knotting into his hair as their lips remained locked and their tongues began dancing and wrestling with one another.

>Hiccup's hands slid up her waist, shoving up her t-shirt unintentionally as he did so. He made to move his hands away but her flesh was like a magnet to him... His hands brushed the soft skin beneath her top and suddenly he found his hands sliding up over her bare belly, teasing at the edge of her bra, but never exploring further. Astrid didn't seem bothered in the slightest, she kept tight hold of him, fingers gripping his hair as her legs clutched at him to help keep herself upright against the wall. There was something more heated, more urgent and desirous happening here. Some part of Hiccup's brain he hadn't even known existed or could function came to life and took control. His lips left hers and began trailing down her neck as one hand moved from under her t-shirt to shove the sleeve

down enough that he could kiss there too. She made a couple of odd gasping or moaning sounds as he did so which only spurred on this new part of his brain. He left little marks on her neck and she dug her nails into his back in response. The normal part of his brain told him to stop... the new part said carry on... He tried to stop and it was Astrid who pulled him back, her lips finding his once more. One hand returned, moving under her t-shirt once more and round onto her back, the other moved down and cupped her ass. His lips moved once more down her neck and her back arched allowing her to tip her head back, exposing more of her neck to him. Astrid's hands began tugging at his jacket until he finally moved his hands, his mouth meeting hers as he did so, and allowed her to pull his jacket off and throw it to the floor before his hands moved back to their earlier positions, the one under her t-shirt gradually pulling it higher and higher...<p>

So things are hotting up for Hiccstrid... But more on that in next chapter and later ones.

16. Chapter 16

Double whammy, have a second short chapter to follow the last!

"Astrid where've you been?! You're twenty minutes late if I don't count the ten to fifteen minutes I expect it to take to get out of class and ready!" Gobber exclaimed as Astrid hurried over sometime later in her running gear.

>"Sorry Gobber! I was just trying to settle Stormfly..."
"I saw that dragon of yours fly overhead nearly forty minutes ago so don't try that excuse!"

>"That's why I had to..."
"She was with Toothless which leads me to conclude..."

>"No! No nothing like that!" She lied hoping the marks on her neck weren't too visible.
"So where is Hiccup then?"

>"How should I know? He said Stormfly and Toothless could take a quick flight whilst he packed everything up..."
"They've not flown back..."

>"Then he suggested Stormfly just stay in his stables with Toothless because I hate shutting her away every night..."
"And you were late why then?"

>"I was helping Hiccup put everything away..."
"And that took forty minutes?"

>"It took a few minutes yeah!" She hoped she wasn't blushing. They'd put everything away... after they were finished using it... The desks proved great for making out on...
"A few minutes is not forty!"

>"Gobber it's nothing like..."
"Nothing like what Astrid?" He asked, an eyebrow raised dangerously high on his bald head, threatening to disappear under his faded baseball cap.

>"Not like what you're thinking..."
"And what exactly am I thinking Astrid?"

>"That Hiccup and I..."
"Yes?"

>"I cannot discuss this with you!"
"And why not?"

>"Because you're my teacher, my personal trainer, Hiccup's teacher and second father... I cannot talk about my relationship with Hiccup with you!"
"Aha!" He yelled triumphantly. "So there is a relationship to not be discussed then?"

"Well... Yes... As of start of afternoon lessons I'm his girlfriend but..."

>"Wahooo! Gobber cheered, punching the air in delight. Astrid felt her cheeks burn scarlet at his response. "Ah yes! I knew it had to happen eventually!"
"You... You what?"

>"You and Hiccup! I always knew sooner or later you'd get together!" This shocked Astrid as much as Hiccup having the confidence to ask her out and take things further.
"You did? Wha... How?"

>"Eh, what is it you kids say these days? It's chemistry. Right from the offset... I just figured you and Hiccup for each other. I don't know exactly why, he was smitten with you from the time he could crawl... But something just told me eventually, you'd see something in him worth hanging onto. I knew he had it in him... I just knew somehow, one day you'd see it too." Astrid stared at him with wide eyes.
"I can't believe that all this time you..."

>"Eh, I helped raise the boy, I had to hope he'd land the best one day. But as a teacher I can't say that. As Hiccup's secondary care giver though... I'll say this, he's done pretty damned well, landing the best anyone could if he's got you." Gobber smiled warmly at her and she smiled back. "Now what you standing around here for? You're already late! Get out there!" Grinning at the sudden change in attitude Astrid hurried out onto the track. "Oh and Astrid..." She turned and looked back at him.
"I don't need to know what you two get up to after school, but don't let it make you late for training again... Those 'hickeys' tell me all I need to know."

17. Chapter 17

**Oh my gods. I am so sorry it's been so long! Life got really quite busy and any fellow writers out there will know writers block is a little bitch. But I'm on summer break now so hopefully I'll be able to update a bit more again before my degree starts in September! Sorry it's long overdue and short!

>

>Hiccup was smiling contentedly as he walked through his front door. He'd pulled off his first lesson without much of a problem, successfully asked out Astrid, and enjoyed a pretty hot make out session with her. It had made her late for training, but Hiccup hadn't much cared. The new part of his brain had been far too preoccupied with what they'd been doing.
He grinned at the thought. He'd left plenty of marks along her neck and collar bone and the thought alone excited him. Not to mention the whole scenario had been pretty heated, apparently so much so that both their t-shirts ended up on the floor. Toothless and Stormfly were playing around outside and Hiccup didn't feel like shutting them in yet. Instead he wandered into the kitchen and began fixing himself a snack. He took out his chemistry notes... the ones he'd failed to do during his lesson due to the distraction of Astrid. He pulled up one of the bar stools to the breakfast bar and began trying to focus.

>For about an hour, he succeeded in paying attention and making notes and answering the set questions... Then his phone buzzed with an incoming text message. He groaned at the distraction, intending to ignore it and mute his phone, he glanced at the name on the screen...
_ASTRID

>Dammit. He couldn't ignore that... Maybe he could... The opening of the message flashed up along his screen and he failed to not read it.

>"Babe you owe me big time... Gobber saw..." Oh shit. Gobber saw what? Had Gobber seen them in the academy? If he had... how long had

he been there? Did he maybe come looking for Astrid when she was late and see them making out on the desk? Or against the wall? Did Gobber see when Hiccup took Astrid's t-shirt off?
He had to look; he had to see what she said. Worry overcame him and he clicked to open the message.

>"Babe you owe me big time... Gobber saw the marks you left on my neck! All I've been hearing since is endless questioning and teasing! Especially since I was late to training! He keeps making suggestive comments thinking we... you know! It's creepy!"
Hiccup couldn't help but laugh. It was absurdly funny all of a sudden. Gobber winding Astrid up about hickeys, questioning her and teasing her... It was all very funny. Until Hiccup remembered Gobber was practically family and if Astrid was getting the teasing, it was nothing compared to what he was in for at a later point. He swallowed nervously at the thought.

>"I'm sorry... But trust me... You think you have it bad, I'll ever hear the end of it! If I'm really lucky he won't say anything in front of my Dad!" he replied. He tried to focus on his notes again but it just wasn't going to happen, especially when another message flashed up, grinning like a fool he opened it.
"Oh gods no! He CANNOT tell your dad! I'd die of embarrassment of he starts questioning me!"

>"I don't know that he would. Dad'll find out at some point though."
"I know but I don't fancy the questioning! Oh shit! Ruff just asked about the marks. You are so dead!" Hiccup laughed again. They sat arguing about how she was going to punish him for making the marks so obvious and just generally talking for hours. His chemistry homework sat forgotten, the dragons had bought themselves in and only after incessant scratching and growling had Hiccup remembered to feed them. The sky was completely dark and Hiccup was lying on his bed, still messaging Astrid with a goofy smile on his face.

>"Babe... It's half one in the morning! We gotta get some sleep! I'll see you tomorrow! Night babe! X" Hiccup glanced over at the glowing red digits on his alarm clock "€" 1.32am. Shit. She was right.
"Oops! See you tomorrow milady. Goodnight, sweet dreams x"

>"I'll be dreaming of you so it will be ;) Night x" With that message Hiccup found himself suddenly wide awake and it took him a good hour to finally fall asleep, phone still in hand, mind still circling around Astrid.<p>

18. Chapter 18

****Sorry for my absence, life has been crazy!****

Astrid yawned loudly as she stretched out next morning. She couldn't hide a small smirk as she glanced across at her phone, remembering her conversations with Hiccup the previous day. That and her dream. If yesterday was anything to go by, her dream might not be so far off. Her phone buzzed quite suddenly making her jump.

>HICCUP
"I blame you entirely. I hardly slept! All your fault!" Astrid laughed at the text. She wondered what had kept him up and she couldn't resist sending him an innocent text.

>"Oh no. Why didn't you sleep well babe? :o" She got up and walked out tugging on a silk dressing gown as she walked into the main room. Ruff was already awake and eating breakfast.
"Sup girl? Sleep well?" She asked, the grin on her face speaking volumes more than her words.

>"Very well actually Ruff." Astrid said happily as her phone buzzed

again.
"You. You kept me up. That last text, why did you have to add the winky face?!" Astrid smirked at the message.
>"Is that lover boy Hotcup?"
"Might be... But that's not your business!"
>"It's him. Tell him I say hey hottie"
"No chance."
>"Reply anyway or he'll think you don't want to talk. Actually don't then maybe I can sneak him."
"Back off Ruff. He's mine." Astrid hissed as she typed out a reply.
>"Sorry babe, for what it's worth... I dreamed of you... and it was good ;)"
"Awww aren't you cute when you get defensive?!"
>"I am never cute!"
"Bet Hiccup would disagree!"
>"He..." She stopped to check the next message.
"Not helping!" She giggled at his reply.
>"Oh my gods are you giggling?!"
"No!" Astrid exclaimed turning pink.
>"And blushing!"
"Shut up!"
>"Astrid and Hiccup sittin' in a tree" Ruff sang " G! First comes love, then comes... well you know what..."
"Hey! You shut up right now!"
>"...Then comes marriage right before a baby in a baby carriage!" She finished singing<p>

"RUFF I WILL KILL YOU!"
>"Astrid loves Hiccup! Astrid loves Hiccup!" Ruff sang skipping around the room with her spoon in the air. "She wants to Kiiiiss him, she wants to looove him, she wants to fuccc..."
"AHHHHH!" Astrid threw herself across the room at Ruff who yelped and dropped her cereal and spoon on the floor as she threw her arms up to protect her face.
>"Astrid! Calm down!"
"Then shut up!"
>"Ok, ok!" Astrid stood and began pouring herself a bowl of muesli.
"Good!"
>"Bet you thought about fucking him last night going by what I heard." Ruff muttered as a bowl shattered a hair away from her left ear.<p>

19. Chapter 19

It was impossible. That was the only conclusion Astrid could draw. There was no correct answer. It had to be. Because she was getting absolutely nowhere with this. The letters and numbers on the page just looked jumbled and messy, she couldn't make sense of any of it.

>"Astrid have you got an answer for us?" The teacher asked suddenly, forcing Astrid to grit her teeth and shake her head. "No sorry Miss."
"I've gone over this three times now Astrid; you need to pay a little more attention to what I'm doing please." She gave Astrid a meaningful glare that made her blush like a six year old with a crush. It wasn't Astrid's fault that today Hiccup happened to have chosen to sit right in front of her. He was a perfect distraction, rubbing the back of his neck when he was stuck or running a hand through his hair, those long fingers of his making a perfect mess of his auburn locks... And his ass. That was the worst distraction. How had she never noticed how clumsy he was? He dropped his pen a grand total of five times, the thermometer once, but to be fair, Fishlegs had crashed into him that time, and knocked his ruler to the floor three times. That gave her nine perfect views of that perfect ass in those too tight jeans. And the teacher wondered why she couldn't pay attention!

>Ruff nudged her in the ribs.
"There's a new equation to solve, you'd better get this one or she'll do her nut." Ruff hissed, clearly trying to be helpful, in her own unique way. Astrid gritted her teeth and tried to focus. She thought she was getting somewhere, she'd at least established the correct formula and was looking up the different elemental properties when it happened.

>Fishlegs dropped his pen and as he bent down to try and retrieve it, he slipped off his stool, trying to balance himself he pressed on Hiccup's stool and both boys fell to the floor like dominoes with a resounding CRASH THUD THUMP.
"Owww! Fish..." Hiccup groaned from under the larger boys' bulk "Get, off, me."

>"Awww I'm sorry Hiccup!" Fishlegs stood rather quickly in an attempt to avoid crushing Hiccup further. Hiccup was sprawled belly first on the floor, his ass up and Astrid's eyes were immediately drawn to it like a magnet.
"It's alright, I'm ok." Hiccup groaned dragging himself onto all fours before standing again. It gave Astrid yet another view of his ass and she found herself staring and losing focus again. He bent down to pick his stool up, that made eleven, and then straightened up and stretched slightly, arching his back a little in an attempt to click it back after Fishlegs landed on it, it made him stick his ass out a little more, twelve, then he moved to sit back down and Astrid's view was wrecked by the stool. But she continued staring at him anyway.

>It wasn't even like she meant to stare! He was just incredibly easy to stare at. He was muscular, but not in that overpowering, veins popping from ridiculously thick biceps kind of way. It was a lean muscular, just enough that when he lifted her up she knew he wasn't going to drop her. His shoulders weren't especially broad but there was a masculine broadness to them that made them exceptionally pleasant to drape her arms around when they were making out. And beneath that grey top she knew there was a set of slightly defined abs. They didn't stick out like some TV stars, but they rippled under her touch and flexed when he worked out. Of course his ass was something else; he'd been blessed by the gods with an ass that could steal words, breath and focus from anyone who caught sight of it. She was certain there were guys who were jealous of his ass. As for his legs, well those were long, still somewhat lanky, but there was muscle power to them now. Hiccup was no longer the gangly boy she'd kissed in a library, he was a man. And a man she wanted to do a lot more than just kissing with. Her eyes raked back up his lithe yet defined form lingering on the back of his head. She wanted to run her hands through his hair again, fingers knotting in the soft auburn waves, she wanted to count every freckle on his nose, and see where the ones covering his neck and torso led, she watched to kiss those lips again. They weren't thin or full, but they were his and they were perfect. And his eyes. She could stare at those for hours, bright green like emeralds with a sparkle to them that rivalled the light from stars. When she looked into those, she felt as though she was lost in a whole other world. A world where it was just them. And when he stared at her with those eyes, she felt certain he was seeing way down into her soul, learning every little detail about her personality, her history, her life... whilst his slightly calloused hands ran over her body learning about what else she liked, learning about her physical side. She felt a burning heat inside herself and then Ruff kicked her in the shin bringing her back to her senses.
"What?"

>"You've not answered the question and Miss is watching." Ruff hissed, deliberately not looking up from her work.
"Oh shit, ok I had this earlier..."

>"Yeah, and then you lost focus... again. Seriously, his ass is nice

but try look elsewhere."
"Shut up about his ass."
>"Just saying what you know you were thinking."
"Shut up."
>"I knew I was right. Made for an amusing photo though, you practically drooling over him."
"You didn't!"
>"I..."
"Girls! Enough talking!" They both grinned at each other and resumed work.

I'm a little worried how easy and fun this one was to write. I know there's not much plot, but everything plays it's part in its own little way. I've got big plans for this one. But getting there and back will be a rollercoaster so I hope you'll be ready!

20. Chapter 20

Alright... This next chapter takes place over the space of about two months and a few months after the last one. Taking a risk here so really hope it pays off!

The Honeymoon Phase. That was what Ruff called it. It was a wonderful phase... For Hiccup and Astrid. Everyone else though soon grew sick of walking in on the love-struck couple making out every where they could. It was a couple of intense months in which all of their friends walked in on them at least three or four times.

>They'd been caught kissing in the changing rooms, the 'Forge', the academy, on the track after Astrid's training, in the gym, in every one of their friends apartments or homes, in an empty classroom or two and a dozen or so other places. After a few months the challenge became to avoid catching the couple in the act. Ruff had gathered quite a collection of photos in the past few months.
She turned grinning to her roommate, bored with her coursework.

>"So where'd you guys get caught today?" She asked leaning on the back of her chair. Astrid sighed and continued scratching her pen on the paper, her face screwed up in concentration.
"The Forge again. Hey, have you got the answer to 8B?"

>"Yeah but I ain't telling. Was it Gobber who caught you again?"
"Yeah, can't you just give me a hint?"

>"And how far had you guys gone today?"
"Not your business. Hint please?"

>"Juicy details in exchange"
"Not going to happen. I'm calling Hiccup."

>"Yeah because that'll work out well for you."
"What?"

>" 'Baby...don't tease me... Come on baby...'" Ruff quoted in a mocking voice
"Oh gods you heard that?!"

>"I was in the next room! How could I not?!" She laughed.
"For how long?"

>"About five minutes..."
"Oh thank the gods."

>"...Before I moved to sit outside your door to hear better."
"Ruff! You creep! You listened?!"

>"You didn't go that far in the end! I was actually disappointed. I thought it would a great story to tell one day!"
"Oh you creep!" Ruff just laughed.

>"Come on, unless you want a repeat of that right here and now, I suggest you take me up on my deal."
"After what you just admitted to?! Yeah right!"

>"I can always just ask Gobber tomorrow in front of everyone in tutorial or at training..."
"Alright alright alright! Help me with this problem and I'll tell you what you want to know!"

>"Details first!"
"FINE!"

>"Yes! Haha!"
"Ok, so Hiccup was in the Forge, as usual working on

some crazy new contraption... But he always looks so damned hot when he's working in there and pounding at the metal..."

>"And you wish he'd pound you..."
"Shut up. Anyway, I just kind of snuck in to watch him for a while and after he'd finished he sort of tugged off his shirt and he was a little sweaty from the heat and everything..."

>"And you got turned on?"
"Yes... He looks good ok?"

>"After catching him topless in the changing rooms last week I'd have to agree."
"I still hate you for that."

>"Not my fault you couldn't resist him."
"Anyway he turned round and saw me and did his usual embarrassed stutter and tried to cover up so I..."

>"Jumped off the stool you were sat on to shut him up with a kiss?"
"Yup."

>"And that kiss?"
"Escalated pretty quickly. He threw me on the desk..."

>"Ooh that's pretty hot. Didn't know he had it in him to do the throwing sweeping thing."
"Well he does and he's damned good at it. So anyway, he throws me on the desk and then jumps up, crawling over me. Still shirtless and still hot."

>"Get to the juicy bits."
"Alright fine, he unhooked my bra and took off my tshirt..."

>"Jeez so Gobber caught you completely topless?"
"That would have been better." She said glaring at the page. "Hint please?"

>"Nope, you're trying to leave me hanging!"
"Fine! Hiccup then put his hand up my skirt and had me moaning under him on the desk. I unbuckled his pants and was this close to having them round his ankles and my hand down his boxers when Gobber walked in and went mad." Ruff slapped her hand on the desk behind her and laughed loudly.

>"Oh gods! You guys really got caught didn't you?! What did he say?!"
"He said Hiccup was in for the scolding of his life, that we should get dressed in the next thirty seconds then I'd better get my ass out of there or Stoick would be next to know."

>"Ouch! The 'tell dad' threat. Did Hiccup cave to that?"
"We were in a room with hot pokers and Gobber is pretty old school from a family of ranchers where that was probably a common punishment... Yes he caved!"

>"Damn. You guys can't catch a break can you?"
"Nope. I swear, every time we try, something crops up. Hel, we took a flight out to the middle of gods knows where, and still we couldn't catch a break!"

"Awww you need me to leave you guys alone in the apartment this weekend?"

>"I dunno, I think he needs to take initiative, if you deliberately leave me the apartment he'll feel like it's forced. I don't want that."
"So I'll just casually leave you alone in the place."

>"Ruff, don't worry. We'll catch our break soon."
"You sure?"

>"Course I am! Now help me with this damned problem!"
"For starters, you might want to check your spelling. It'll make more sense when it says Magnesium not Manganese."

>"Shit!"<p>

"Ruff?"

>"Astrid, it's like 3am what's the problem?"
"Ruff... I think Hiccup is mad with me."

>"Why, did you insult his stupid suit thing?"
"No. Eret came over

to talk to me after training, then Hiccup came over and asked if I was ready to go. I said I would be in just a second, then he just looked at Eret and then at me and said 'Do you know what I get it. Don't bother.'

>"Ok so he doesn't sound too happy. But he's always been off with Eret since he arrived here."
"Yeah but why did he suddenly bail on me? I know that for the last month he's been a little more distant... But I just don't get it Ruff. We were so happy a month ago. It was like nothing could wreck it but now..."

>"Astrid, the honeymoon phase is over, that's all."
"What do you mean?"

>"The first couple of months you're just all over each other, everything is just hot and exciting... Now it's time for the real stuff. He'll come around."<p>

"How can you be sure? What if he doesn't?"

>"Astrid, it's Hiccup. He'll come around."
"But... Ruff, he's never cancelled on me before. Ever. It's not Hiccup. He's acting different. Ruff what if this is the way it's going to be now?"

>"Astrid..." She moaned "It's early... Too early... Can we talk about this at a reasonable hour?"
"This is usually for you."

>"No, not tonight. Tomorrow we can talk."
"Ruff, I can't sleep worrying about it!"

>"Then call him! Don't bug me about it!"
"You think I should just call him?"

>"Yes... Call him."<p>

"Oh hey there Hiccup!"

"Not now Heather."

"Why the long face?" The raven head looked across to where Astrid was talking to Eret at the side of the track. "Oh... She's talking to him again huh?" Hiccup sat stony faced. "Not surprising really, I mean have you seen how hot he is?"

>"Thank you for that."
"Oh calm down. Every girl has noticed he's hot. Same as they did when you first got back." Hiccup scoffed. "It's true."

>"Yeah... That's the problem though isn't it?"
"Well I mean, granted she took a shine to you after you got hot but..."

>"I was talking about Eret..."
"Oh..." Heather said and Hiccup sighed standing up.

>"Yeah, thanks a lot. I feel so much better." He rolled his eyes and went to walk away.
"Woah woah, wait! I'm sorry ok! I didn't mean... I mean come on... It's just, well you know Astrid."

>"Yeah I do..."
"Well... she's all about looks and muscle and power. You know? I just think she's chasing you because you got hot."

>"And you flirt with me because you like me for myself?" He said sarcastically
"Well yeah, you're a nice guy. You're cute. And you're honest." Hiccup remembered the first time Astrid kissed him. She'd said similar things then. Was it just a go to answer or just popular opinion? "Look, I know you don't think much of me, but if you need to talk to anyone. I'm here. I know guys like him, and I've known her for years. I mean, you guys haven't had sex yet right?"

>"That... That is... Completely off the point and none of your business!" He said hurriedly.
"Yeah I figured. She does that sort of thing. She'll expect everything but give nothing."

>"I just figured she didn't want to just give herself away unless she was serious about a guy."
"So if she's serious about you why hasn't she?" Heather asked and suddenly Hiccup's mind was reeling in a rather more painful way. He looked at Heather, a thousand questions and concerns rushing through his brain. She smiled, perhaps a little smugly if he'd been in any state to notice and tapped the bench next to her and he sat down and spilled everything.

Hiccup slammed down his bag and began pacing aggressively.
>"Am I being irrational? I mean am I just being stupid?"<p>

"Yes." Fishlegs replied stuffing his face with a sandwich.
>"What?" Hiccup snapped back turning to stare at his best friend.<p>

"Yes you are being irrational and stupid. Astrid is not into Eret." He said not looking up from his food.
>"But..."
"But nothing. Astrid is with you. She wants to be with you. Eret can flirt all he likes, doesn't mean he'll get anywhere. Astrid is your girl. Not his. Something she makes perfectly clear on a regular basis by shoving her tongue down your throat."
>"I guess you're right..."
"Of course I'm right. You guys are a great couple. Don't get all insecure about this."
>"It's not easy Fish, she's... Astrid! Astrid Hofferson. She's the hottest girl in Berk and every guy has fantasised about her. I'm just a little dork. I don't even know how we got together; she's totally out of my league."<p>

"You're just being insecure. Isn't it down to Astrid to decide if she's out of your league? And she clearly doesn't think so."
>"I guess so..."
"Don't guess. You have to know. She's crazy about you. Anyone who spends two minutes with you guys, or even just with her knows that. You just need to know it."

"I should go talk to her then right? Because I've been acting a little colder towards her lately."
>"Then yeah, you had better go apologise, just tell her you do get a little insecure about Eret. She'll probably laugh and tell you its ok. You don't do the cold or jerkish thing. You don't act really jealous or insecure. That's why she likes you."
"You're right, of course you're right. Ah, I'll go find her. I don't want to be mad with Astrid. I mean, I've been dreaming of being with her since I was what..."
>"Old enough to crawl?"
"Yeah, pretty much. Ok, I'm going to find her."
>"Good plan."<p>

Hiccup knocked on the classroom door. Astrid was the last one in there.
>"Hey, can I come in?" He asked cautiously poking his head in the door.
"Course you can babe, I'm sorry I'm late leaving. Got caught up."
>"Thanks, listen... We've got to talk."
"Oh gods... got to talk? Oh that's not..."
>"Oh no! No I don't mean like that! No no Astrid..." He took her hands and sat down on a desk opposite her looking at her with wide green eyes. "I, I just wanted to talk, to apologise for the way I've been acting lately. I know I've been kind of distant lately..."
"Yeah you have." She sat and folded her arms and looked at him. Her blue eyes were harsh and searching.

>"And I wanted to apologise for that."
"Maybe you could explain why."

>"Ok, well... If I'm being totally honest, I've been feeling kind of insecure lately. I mean, you're you and I'm... I'm me. And I just..." Astrid slid off the desk and put a finger to his lips.
"Shush... It's forgotten ok. And you don't need to feel insecure Hiccup. I chose you ok? It's you I want to be with! For you! Listen, I understand ok. I was talking to Eret about everything and he said I shouldn't worry, that you probably just needed a bit of time..."

>"Wait wait wait... You talked to... to Eret about this?!"
"Well yeah, I was upset about you bailing on me the other day... and he asked what was wrong and he kept asking and I told him you'd seemed a little distant and everything and he said..."

>"I can't believe it... You talked about our private relationship with him!"
"He's my friend Hiccup..."

>"Oh yeah sure, he's just a friend."
"Yes! What you think I'm seeing him on the side?! When I was the one who got cheated on when I was fifteen you think I'd do that?!"

>"No, but he's obviously just looking for a way in. He's finding everything out about our relationship so he can worm a way in and break us up! He's trying to mess up our relationship."
"Ok, wow. The only one messing our relationship up right now is you. You're the one getting jealous and paranoid! Eret and I talked, I didn't shove my tongue down his throat!"

>"Yeah well you seem to talk to him a lot. And about everything. I thought our relationship was private!"
"Our relationship is between us! I talked to him because I was upset and he was there!"

>"Exactly!"
"Yeah, he was where you were supposed to be!" She snapped back. Hiccup of course then took this totally the wrong way.

>"Oh my gods she was right." He said quietly running a hand through his hair.
"Who was right about what?"

>"Heather, she was right. I can't believe it, she was totally right about you."
"Wait you talked to Heather?! You're trusting what that slut says?!"

>"You talked to Eret!"
"Look who's calling the kettle black! Heather has always gone out of her way to sabotage my relationships! Why would you trust her?!"

>"Because she's right! She was right about Eret, and about you talking with him and what that might mean... And she was right, if you were serious about me... You wouldn't have been with him."
"What?! If you were serious about me I wouldn't have been sat talking to him miserable because you wouldn't have blown me off!"

>"I wouldn't have blown you off if I thought you were serious about me!"
"How could you think I'm not serious about you?!"

>"Because I've seen you with Eret!"
"He's my friend! YOU are my boyfriend! Of course I'm serious about you!"

>"Yeah... I really see that."
"Oh my... Are you seriously this stupid?! I thought you were intelligent!" She yelled, expressing her frustration with her hands like he usually did. He stared at her, his eyes oddly cold.

>"If I was more intelligent I'd have realised sooner that I wasn't really anything to you. I'd have gone sooner." Astrid opened and closed her mouth for a minute before she grabbed her bag.
"I don't know who the fuck you are... But do me a favour, and find Hiccup and when you do, tell him to call me. Because my boyfriend would never say anything so awful or stupid. You mean everything to me, call me

when you figure that the fuck out!" And with that she slammed the door and left.

21. Chapter 21

It was bitter. Exceptionally so. He sighed heavily and stared around. Things had never been so bad. They'd gone through a whole lot, but this was the worst. Neither would so much as look at the other without getting angry or upset. Fishlegs couldn't even make sense of why. Last he'd known, Hiccup had been going to apologise, next thing he knew, everything went wrong and somehow he found his best friend breaking up with his girlfriend.
>It had not been pretty.<p>

There had been yelling, screaming, crying. And then the altogether more lethal throwing of objects including Nadder spines. Fishlegs privately thought they were all lucky to have survived the situation. 'Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned' Fishlegs thought, _and no woman hath fury as hellish as Astrid Hofferson _he added privately.

The really sad thing was, seeing the effect of the break up on everyone else. It had been three weeks since the "Hiccstrid ship hit a reef" as Ruff put it. But nothing was any better. If at all possible, things were worse.

At first, it had just been the bitter angry fall-out. The one where they're too angry to speak to each other. In that time, Hiccup hardly spoke to Heather and Astrid completely ignored Eret much to Ruff's dismay because it meant she didn't see him. Fishlegs had almost convinced Hiccup this whole thing was stupid... Then Eret had decided he was sick of Astrid ignoring him and forced his company upon her at the same time Fishlegs had gotten Hiccup near her. He'd stormed out and not been seen for the next five hours. Ruff told Fishlegs Eret had gone to ask Astrid why she wouldn't talk to him anymore, that after she spotted Hiccup she'd spent six hours looking for him. But when Hiccup didn't want to be found, he wouldn't be found.

After that things went from bad to worse. It was like being thrown into some horrible parallel universe. Hiccup had been so mad; he'd taken Heather's every word on board. And unfortunately, she was a bad influence. She took him out drinking in bars, he flirted with other girls, and when he was really drunk, Fishlegs had seen him making out with other girls. The one time Astrid saw it, all Fishlegs saw was a smashed glass and a flash of blonde hair running out of the place. Hiccup had somehow become overly confident and cocky, gloating and laughing like the traditional play-boy jock.

Astrid went to the other extreme. She didn't go out so much. She skipped classes, she skipped her training... she just sat in her apartment in sweats eating cheese puffs, ice cream and raw cookie dough.

Fishlegs wished everything could go back to how it was before. He sighed again and glanced at his best friend. Hiccup was sat back in his chair, carelessly scribbling down his notes, getting the answers right as usual, but with a distinctly un-Hiccup attitude that Fishlegs was really growing sick of.

She slammed down another glass. The bartender raised his eyebrow at her.

>"Pounding them back pretty hard tonight." He commented as she waved for another.
"I have reason."

>"Him again?"
"Have you seen him over there?"

>"Yeah, can't miss him. Where's your friend?"
"Over the other side the room playing tonsil tennis with the guy who helped wreck my relationship."

>"Oh."
"Yeah... Oh."

>"I'll make this a double, on the house."
"Thanks." She said as he slid another glass towards her which she pounded back too. She didn't want to be there. She glanced to her left and Hiccup was sat in a booth, laughing loudly, drunk and openly flirting with other girls, mostly Heather who was hanging around him like a scarf. It made her sick.

>To make matters worse, if she looked to her right, she saw Ruff flirting with Eret who had played his part in her break up with Hiccup. Ruff had dragged her out and now had bailed on her.
The barman shoved another glass her way.

>"If you pound this one too I ain't giving you another one for a while."
"Understood. I'll take this one a bit slower but I'm not going to nurse it." She said sipping at it just to appease him. She sipped it slowly, her eyes flicking between Hiccup and Ruff for a while. Both sights made her want to vomit and neither had anything to do with alcohol.

>After a little while, Hiccup, still laughing, left, one arm around Heather's waist. It was the final straw. Astrid downed the last dregs of her drink and smashed the glass down with such ferocity in her bitter anger and jealousy that it smashed.
Heather! She thought bitterly. That stupid slut had been screwing everything up for Astrid for far too long! She took everything Astrid had that she thought was good and messed it up by getting in the way! And now, she'd taken the nicest guy in the world and made him into a total jerk! She'd taken the one guy Astrid really did care about.

>"Mind if I sit?" Astrid glanced to the side away from the shattered glass that seemed to mirror her own feelings to see Snotlout standing there. She shrugged not really caring anymore. He sat beside her and watched Ruff with her.
Ruff was laughing too, she and Eret were now shamelessly making out in the middle of the room before they left together.

>"This caring lark sucks huh?" Astrid didn't answer him, she just accepted another glass and shoved one towards Snotlout and they both downed it. "You must hate it. Seeing him with her. After all she's the one who..."
"Did you want something Snotlout?" she snapped, cutting him off.

>"I figured I'd come talk."
"Why?"

>"Because well, you were here alone and miserable and I... I kind of get what you mean. How you feel... I hate seeing Ruff with other guys ok?"
"So what you guys were casual." She was too bitter to show sympathy.

>"I know Astrid, but I've realised... I don't want to just be casual. I want to be with her. So I'm not going to let her go. Not without at least trying. I'm not giving up just because some guy like Eret has shown up."
"What's your point Snotlout?"

>"I've never known you to give up on anything before."
"What do you mean by that?"

>"Are you really going to give up on Hiccup?" She slammed down another glass hard and turned to look equally hard on him.
"What?" She snapped shortly.

>"Are you going to give up on him, just because Heather is

interfering?"
"He's not Hiccup, Snotlout." She said quietly.

>"No... He's still Hiccup underneath. You and I both know his brain is just a bit fucked up."
"A bit? Snot, that would be the understatement of the century."

>"Ok, very fucked up but look..."
"No... You look. You've seen him. That's him now. He's no different to the rest of those jerks. Flirts with anyone he fancies and messes with the girls. If wants to go fuck around with Heather then he can, ok? I don't care anymore."

>"That's not true. You do care."
"No I'm done caring. Caring just gets you hurt. If you care you just have more to lose. And I don't have much left to lose so I intend to keep it. I'm through with this shit Snotlout. Love is for fools. And I'm through playing the fool"
She downed another glass and slammed in onto the bar again and made to walk away.

>"You're not done. You can't decide if you're done. You don't chose to fall in or out of love. It just happens."
"Enough Snotlout. Why do you even care?"

>"Because you guys kind of taught me about caring. And to be honest, if you guys can't make it, what hope is there for the rest of us?"
"I guess there isn't. Only fools right?" And she left without another word. Snotlout watched her go in despair. That wasn't Astrid. And it wasn't Hiccup either. He decided then, that something had to be done. Because these two just didn't work right without each other, and it really sucked.

"So we all know why we're here..." Fishlegs began.

>"Dude, it's not a freaking women's institution intervention or whatever... We're here because our friends gone and fucked shit up and now it's not just them paying the price. I can't remember the last dragon training session where no one nearly died," Tuff said, leaning casually back on the chair, his feet on the desk, "I mean, I'm all for dangerous lessons... But mad Astrid throwing spines and breathing metaphorical fire whilst her dragon sits in the corner shaking is not the kind of danger I like."

"Exactly. It's out of control. And now they won't talk in the lessons and she gets Stormfly before we start and goes off or she just won't join us. I think Toothless and Stormfly miss each other. I heard him warble at her pen the other day but Hiccup and Astrid won't let them see each other." Snotlout commented.

>"Yeah well if we point that out, they'll just let the dragons meet and still ignore each other. Might even make things worse, her claiming Stormfly is leaving her too or whatever." Fishlegs pointed out.
"She just sits in her sweats. She doesn't do anything now, and she hardly talks to me." Ruff said.

>"It probably doesn't help that you've been shoving your tongue down Eret's throat and fucking him when in Astrid's eyes, he's part of the reason she and Hiccup broke up." Snotlout said, a hint of bitterness in his voice.
"I can fuck whoever I want. It's a free country." Ruff said calmly.

>"He has a point though Ruff, you're her best friend and it probably seems like a betrayal to Astrid right now."
"So you want me to just stop seeing him?"

>"You're seeing him? Like a relationship?" Snotlout asked his face falling.
"Eurgh pathetic... we're pretty high up, you could jump." Tuff muttered in disgust.

>"I see him to go fuck." Ruff said flicking her hair back casually.
"Besides what do you care?"
"I don't care."

>"Then why do you look so miserable at the idea?" Tuff asked.
"I thought we were here about Hiccup and Astrid?" Snotlout snapped trying to change the subject.

>"Yes, we are." Fishlegs said looking meaningfully between Ruff and Snotlout. That was practically begging for more drama. "Ruff, either find a new fuck buddy, or do it discreetly, and definitely not at yours. It'll just make Astrid more pissed."
"But if Eret is fucking me then Hiccup will know he's not sleeping with Astrid!"

>"That's true, but it won't help unless Astrid thinks he hasn't fucked Heather."
"Has he?!" They all asked, each voice getting higher in disbelief. Fishlegs rolled his eyes.

>"I don't know. I don't think so, but he doesn't say so much to me anymore... He's usually busy either talking to Heather or just shoving his tongue down her throat." They all shuddered involuntarily.
"That's just not right. It was tolerable when it was Astrid."

>"I think I might be sick at the very thought."
"If he's not fucking her though... Surely we can fix this?" Tuff asked looking over at Fishlegs.

>"Maybe... It all depends. I actually think part of the issue to begin with was that they didn't have sex. Not in that 'I want sex and I'm leaving if we don't' kind of way, more in the intimate and serious way. I think Hiccup got scared about Eret because he was worried he couldn't compete with other guys, in general. So then it seemed like Astrid wasn't serious about him if they weren't having sex because it's something they both take seriously."
"Stop saying serious so much. It comes down to this, sexual tension and frustration. Hiccup wanted it, Astrid wanted it. Why didn't they have it? Couldn't catch a break. Why did it get so bad? It seemed like a bad omen. Bam, Eret turns up. He's the ultimate sex icon in the girls' eyes, my sister proves that, Hiccup starts feeling more insecure because Astrid is capable of talking to guys and not wanting sex regardless of whether they do. Heather creeps in from stage right, she starts convincing Hiccup Astrid isn't serious about him because she'd have slept with him if she was. Hiccup gets more insecure and mistakenly believes Astrid is hooking up with Eret. Astrid flips and Hiccup goes looking for Heather. Astrid sees them together and what follows is the ultimate bad break up but both are still so frustrated and honestly, infatuated, yeah I know big words, with each other, that even when drunk they can't hook up with anyone else."

>"Wow..."
"That was..."

>"Unbelievably accurate." Said Fish in disbelief. "That does totally sum it up. It really does boil down to sex and insecurities."
"Not something I ever expected to hear about Hiccup." Snotlout confessed.

>"It's not like that crazed desire to hook up though is it? It's about intimate sex with feelings and shit. That's something no one here has ever had, and to be honest, they need to get it out of their systems." Ruff said.
"She's right, even if they don't get together, I cannot believe I'm saying this, they need a hook up, they need to get out this sexual frustration in order to move on."

>"Yup, they just need one wild and hot steamy night, where it's all passion and heat and desire and...What?" Ruff said looking at their expressions.
"Now I am going to be sick." Tuff groaned.

>"So what do we do then?"
"Duh... We try and get them to fuck." Ruff said as if it was the most obvious thing in the world.

>"It's not enough. They don't work without each other. A night of sex

without realising they actually care for each other would have no more effect than if it was someone else." Pointed out Fishlegs.
"Yeah, but if they have sex with each other then at least they aren't going to forever hate the other for sleeping with someone else like Heather."

>"This is again true..." They all sighed.
"I just don't know what to do." Ruff said in despair. "What if this doesn't go away? What if they stay mad at each other for good? Then what?"

>"I guess we'd have to divide our time. I mean, you guys aren't all that close to Hiccup so I guess I'd see Hiccup mostly and you'd all see Astrid."
"This is like a bad divorce in a bad TV show." Snotlout complained. "Why can't things be the way they were before?"

>"I have to admit, I almost miss walking in on them making out everywhere. It was better than seeing them fight anyway."
"I found all the photos I took the other day... I thought about deleting them, but I couldn't do it. They just seemed so right together you know? Happy."

>"This sucks."
"Cheers to that." Tuff said. "I blame Heather. Until she's out the picture they have no chance."

>"Are you suggesting we kill her?" Ruff asked and Fishlegs couldn't tell if she was excited or appalled.
"He's right though... As long as Heather is around, feeding Hiccup's over confident drunken ego... He won't give up. It's like revenge. Astrid is clearly...Oh my gods I've got it!"

>"Got what?" Snot asked confused.
"Who does Astrid hate more than anyone?"

>"Heather." The others all said in unison.
"Exactly. Hiccup was jealous over Eret, but how could he make Astrid feel like he did?"

>"By flirting with Heather."
"Precisely! The one small part of his brain still functioning knows that Astrid will get jealous if he flirts with Heather. She's playing on that, if she gives him what he wants..."

>"She gets what she wants. She breaks Astrid and gets to hook up with Hiccup in the process!" Ruff finished.
Snotlout looked thoughtful. "So, that means... Subconsciously, Hiccup wants Astrid still because the only reason he's acting like this is to make her jealous because he thinks it'll win her back because he thinks she was seeing Eret."

>"Which she obviously wasn't but it still ought to have the desired effect..." Tuff continued
"...Except, Astrid doesn't like this over confident cocky side to Hiccup because it makes him seem like any other jerk who would hurt her..." Fishlegs added

>Ruff then carried on "... And she always liked Hiccup because he wasn't like the others. He was always different and the only time he was confident in a hot way was..."<p>

"...When he and Astrid got together." Snotlout finished.

>"So it actually works out that he's pushing her away with his attempt to win her back..."
"Because she's not getting territorial over him."

>"She's not a dragon Fishlegs."
"But why isn't she territorial over him?"

>"Because like we just said... His new attitude, she doesn't like it. She said it herself 'He's not Hiccup'" Snotlout said recalling his conversation with Astrid.
"So she needs to see he still is Hiccup."

>"But he's not right now, so how do we do that?" Ruff asked.
"Duh." Tuff said and they all looked over to where he was

still sat causally. "Well it's obvious isn't it?" They all blinked at him, not understanding. "Apparently not." He sighed. "If someone is over confident and cocky, what do you do?" They kept staring. "Knock his confidence. It worked before didn't it? He wasn't doing too bad, then Eret turns up and he lost confidence. Just repeat the effects."

>"But he's not bothered by Eret right now, and Heather..."
"Like I said, get her out the picture. Then no one is feeding his ego. All it takes then is a nudge and he'll fall from his current state. Then he's manageable. He's Hiccup. Underneath, he's still the same. If it was a threat to Toothless, he wouldn't hesitate."

>"That! That's it!" Fishlegs exclaimed suddenly. "That's our way in! Toothless!"
"How so?" Ruff asked baffled.

>"Hiccup would do anything for Toothless. He'd never do anything to upset him. Toothless always loved Astrid..."
"...But he doesn't like Heather too much!" Snotlout shouted triumphantly. "I saw him growl at her!"

>"It might only be a weak link, but it's a start. We make Hiccup realise he can't bring her to the academy all the time because it upsets Toothless. We then make a point to both him and Astrid that their dragons miss each other."
"They both go to let the dragons socialise, not intending to talk to each other..." Fishlegs joined in

>"We conveniently set her up to say something or say something ourselves to knock his confidence..." Ruff chimed in.
"Likely sparking something of a fight between them. Then we have to hope the dragons are on our side and bail on them forcing them into each other's company." Tuff said gleefully

>"Then we just don't let them out until they talk things out!" Snotlout said laughing. "It's brilliant!"
"It's flawed... but it might be a place to start. He needs a knock to his confidence; she needs to see he's still him underneath. Hopefully any issue with Toothless will do that."

>"If he thinks he's done something to upset Toothless, that'll knock his confidence and he'll be really Hiccup-ish again trying to make up for it and she'll feel happier seeing that."<p>

"You think it could work?" Snotlout asked almost desperately. Fishlegs gave a determined nod.

>"If we make our plan just crazy enough, then it just might."<p>

"I don't want to talk to him!"

>"You don't have to." Ruff said rolling her eyes. "Just let Stormfly see Toothless. You two don't even have to stay. They're dragons. They don't need supervision. I'm sure it would make her really happy. She never sees him anymore."
"That's because..."

>"You and Hiccup won't see each other? That's not fair to them, they didn't ask you two to get together and then have a bitter break up. This isn't supposed to involve them." Astrid looked away guiltily. This plan might jut work! "Can't you guys put your fight aside enough to let your dragons play? Stormfly loves spending time with Toothless. Don't make her pay for what Hiccup did." That should help, make her think she was totally on her side.
"He was just such a prick!" Astrid exclaimed. "I never thought he could ever, ever do something like that! I guess I was really wrong."

>"Yeah, what he did was wrong. He was a total jackass. But Toothless didn't. And he doesn't get why he doesn't see you or Stormfly anymore. Just like she doesn't understand why she can't see them. Don't punish Stormfly and Toothless for his actions."
"I guess you're right. We shouldn't make them a part of our fight. My fight is

with him, not Toothless."

>"That's my girl. Let the dragons play. Leave them out of it." Astrid sighed.
"Alright, alright. I'll let Stormfly see Toothless. And I guess I'll stay just long enough to let Toothless know I'm not mad with him."

>"Good plan, come on, let's go."<p>

Hiccup rubbed Toothless on his head. "That's not true is it?" He asked anxiously. Fishlegs folded his arms and raised his eyebrow.

>"You know it is Hiccup. He doesn't like it. He wants to see her."
"But..."

>"No, don't make excuses. He didn't ask for this. Toothless wants to spend time with her. He sees the other dragons, why not Stormfly?" Very helpfully Toothless warbled at this point as if to say he did wonder.
"Ok so I'll just let her out..."

>"And invoke Astrid's wrath again? Have you not angered her enough?"
"She started it! She..."

>"You sound like a child Hiccup. Grow up." Fishlegs said bluntly. Hiccup stared and made like he was going to snap back.
"Hiccup? You ready to go sexy?" Heather asked walking in. Fishlegs rolled his eyes again. "Oh hey there Toothless! You cutie!" She said in a sickening voice. Toothless snarled and slunk towards the back of the academy before his ears suddenly pricked up.

>"Well that wasn't very nice Toothless!" Hiccup said.
"Told you." Fishlegs muttered.

>"Stormfly. Hey girl, it's me..." Everyone turned as Astrid walked in. Toothless suddenly seemed much brighter, crouching playfully, a gummy smile on his face as he bounded over to Astrid nuzzling at her hand. "Oh hey Toothless. Hi bud... I know, I'm sorry. I'm going to let Stormfly out to play with you for a bit if you want. I know you guys miss each other." She said deliberately not looking at Hiccup or Heather. Toothless was nuzzling at her as if to say he missed her too. Astrid just smiled and opened the pen door letting Stormfly out. The Nadder paused to greet her rider before flapping excitedly at Toothless, clearly glad to see him.
"Ok Stormfly? I'll let you stay out and play ok?" She said stroking her snout affectionately.

>"I'm going Hiccup. Are you coming or not?" Heather snapped looking harshly at him. He was watching Astrid and Toothless.
"Ummm... Not tonight. I have to make amends with Toothless."

>"Amends for what?!"
"I dragged him into a fight that wasn't his." He replied, still not looking away. Heather scoffed and stormed out mad. Fishlegs tried not to smirk too much.

>"I'm going too Hiccup. Just think about what I said. It's not just Toothless you owe an apology to, best friend or not, you have been a total jerk."
"What?!"

>"You have. It's not like you to act like that. To try make someone jealous, to flirt and get drunk, to neglect your friends and blow them off. To act so careless. And you never act like that with Toothless either normally. And you're smarter than to jump to conclusions without solid proof. At least I thought you were." He said shrugging. "I guess I'll see you whenever. Bye Astrid, Stormfly, Toothless." And he left running round the side to listen with the others.
Hiccup looked back to Astrid. Fishlegs was wrong. He'd not been like that at all. It was her fault. She'd gone off with Eret... But that niggling voice he'd silenced with alcohol before was whispering in his ear again '_You never actually got proof of that. You just assumed. When did you ever see any romantic or sexual relations between them?' _he tried to shut up the voice, but it was

far from done. '_What about Toothless? He's your best friend and you haven't paid him as much attention. You kept him from Stormfly, you didn't listen to the fact he clearly didn't like Heather. You don't like Heather. You're just doing this to make Astrid jealous. It's not worked very well has it? Now she doesn't just think you're a jerk. She knows you are. If anything, you're pushing her into some guys open arms.'_ He shook his head in an attempt to shake the voice out. He didn't want to hear it. It couldn't be true. It couldn't be. Because if it was... then he really had been a jerk, an idiot... and he'd have blown his chances with the girl he'd loved since he first saw her.

>"If it's alright with you, I'm going to let Stormfly spend time with Toothless. Unless that's a problem for you?" She asked, her voice bitter. He felt annoyed. She couldn't talk to him like that. He'd never do anything to upset Toothless, at least not knowingly.
"Be my guest." He said through gritted teeth.

>"There you go girl. You can see him freely now. I'm sorry I didn't let you. Sorry Toothless, I'm not mad at you but I'm most definitely not welcome. I missed you too bud. But I'm sorry. I'm not allowed to see you." Hiccup felt really annoyed now, was she trying to make him out to be the bad guy? Uh uh... no way was that going to happen.
"Oh please, if you want to see Toothless, be my guest."

>"Oh so you're done with him then? Just going to ditch him for Heather too?" He pursed his lips. She was really asking for it. She had the nerve to say that? She just stood there, somehow still flawless. Her blonde hair tied into a loose pony tail, her eyes cold but veiled. There was more to it than that.
"I'm not ditching him. I simply said if you wanted to see him, I wasn't going to stop you." His teeth were still gritted. She had to look good didn't she? It just made it much more confusing. He was mad at her right? But wait, wasn't he the jerk? No, no he wasn't. Was he?

>"Hmm..." She crouched down to kiss Toothless on his nose. Was she wearing lip gloss or were her lips always that shiny and inviting? He'd forgotten how they tasted. No... no... he was mad. Definitely mad. "Are you staying here? Because I don't think your girlfriend is going to like that too much."
"She's... She's not my girlfriend." That fact seemed suddenly very important. He wasn't with Heather. He didn't actually like her that way... in fact, did he like her at all or had it just been to spite Astrid?

>"Oh really? I guess I was misled by the fact you shove your tongue down her throat on a regular basis. My apologies." She sneered.
"I only did that to make you jealous!" He spat without meaning to. The words had escaped him before he even realised what he was saying.

>"Is that supposed to make me want you back? Because it doesn't. Just proves you're a jerk." He clenched his teeth together in an effort to bite back the hundreds of things he wanted to shout. It didn't work.
"Are you saying you don't care at all about me anymore?" It came out less bitter, more desperate.

>"Yeah pretty much. You're no different to any other jerk. No different to before. I don't have time for that."
"I'm not like that!" He shouted.

>"Really? Give me one reason to believe that! Go on, give me a reason!" She yelled back.
"I... I... Well I ..."

>"Exactly, you can't think of anything."
"I was there! I was there when he cheated on you with her!"

>"Yeah you were! And then you trusted her over me! You ran into her arms! You ran off just like he did!" Neither of them noticed the dragons slink out, nor that the others had just locked the doors of

the academy.
"I didn't I swear! I never fucked her!"
>"You didn't?" She asked surprised.
"No! Like I said, I only flirted with her..."
>"And made out with her."
"And yeah... that too... To make you jealous. That's all it was. All it ever was! I could never have actually been with her, with anyone else because I'm still completely and hopelessly in love with you! The same as I have been since the moment I first saw you!"
>"You love me?"
"Of course I love you! I've been in love with you for years!"
>"You sure have a funny way of showing it!" She spat.
"You're no better!"
>"What's that supposed to mean?!"
"You love me too!"
>"That... That is completely off the point!"
"No it's right on the money and you know it! You wouldn't care otherwise."
>"I don't care."
"Then why did you not say anything to me? Why did you just ignore me, why not just be straight about it like usual? Because you're trying to hide the truth. You don't want to admit it because then it hurts."
>"I wouldn't have had to do that if you hadn't turned out to be a jerk!"
"So you admit it?"
>"No. I might have sort of maybe at one point... But then you showed me I was an idiot. I was a fool and I don't want to be the fool."
"Liar."
>"I am not a liar!"
"Liar!"
>"Am not!"
"Yes you are!"
>"Shut up! You're the one who fucked this up anyway!"
"Yeah I did ok?! I fucked up. I fucked up big time! I admit it! But are you too proud to admit you still love me?"
>"Yeah I am actually!"
"Well then fuck this!"
>" 'This' isn't anything!"
"I beg to differ."
>"What is it then?"
"An opportunity and I'm not going to let it go."
>"An opportunity for wha...?" He shut her up, grabbing her and kissing her hard on the mouth, one hand on her back, the other in her hair. Initially, she didn't kiss back, then her lips moved against his, warm and familiar. For a moment everything felt right, easy, natural. Then she pushed him away and stared at him dumbfounded.
"You kissed me!"
>"Yeah I did." He smirked "Problem?"
"Yes there's a fucking problem!"
>"What is it Astrid? What's the problem?" He asked still smirking.
"You were a total jerk!"
>"A total jerk."
"And you broke up with me!"
>"I think we just kind of fell apart but I admit, it was pretty much my fault."
"You broke my heart!"
>"Then let me fix it."
"And then you ran off with Heather of all people!"
>"Because I was a stupid idiot trying to make you jealous."
"You thought I cheated on you!"
>"Because I was too stupid to realise you loved me."
"You were stupid! I told you you meant everything to me!"
>"And I was an idiot. I didn't listen."
"I hate you."
>"You love me."
"Don't."
>"Do."
"Do not!"
>"Do so!"
"Do not!" she said hitting his arm
>"Do so!" He said grabbing her wrist before she could strike again and kissing her again. It was rough, it was aggressive, but she kissed him back.
"Do not" She muttered into his breath.
>"Do so." He muttered back, his hands moving round to her back as he

suddenly lifted her off her feet, one hand remained on her back, the other cupped her ass.
"Jerk." She gasped, wrapping her legs around him.

>"You love me."
"Do not"

>"Oh you do... you so do." He had her pressed against the wall now meaning one hand was free to move along her sides. Her own hands shifted, one still gripping his hair, the other sliding down his chest.
"I do not."

>"Yes you do." It wasn't enough. He wanted more. He needed more. He could feel his desire growing and he longed to satisfy his growing need for the girl straddling his waist. He moved quickly, lying her down on the floor and crawling over her, lips searching out hers as his hands pulled at the material of her top, longing to remove it.
"Fuck..." She gasped arching her neck, he took his chance, lips moving over every inch of the flesh exposed, causing a moan to escape her lips. It only spurred him on. Off went the top and then she was dragging his off too, pulling him back to her lips and kissing him hungrily. "I really..." she kissed him "...fucking..." kiss "...hate you..." kiss "...Hiccup..." He couldn't help a grin as he removed her bra and moved his hands still further down her body.

>"And I really hate you too Astrid. I really fucking do."<p>

22. Chapter 22

It was crazy. She didn't know how it was happening. She was supposed to hate him. But she couldn't. Every time she looked at him, she knew it. She was hopelessly in love with this idiot. With the mess of auburn hair, with every freckle that kissed his stupidly perfect face, with those eyes that saw right through her, with the lips she was dying to kiss, with his long slightly calloused fingers. She was in love with his crooked smile, his nervous laugh, that casual confidence he only had with her, with his sarcastic nature, his compassion and honesty. She was in love and, annoyingly, Snotlout was right. She couldn't choose not to be. She could deny it. She could lie to everyone else. But not to herself. And not to him.

>She cursed him. She cursed his ability to see right through her, to know when she was lying. She cursed his lips that dragged things from her own lips she never meant to let out. She cursed his nimble fingers that made light work of any fight she had left. She cursed his voice, the lower huskier tone sending her wild. She cursed his sudden burst of confidence that had her gasping and moaning. She cursed that growing warmth in his pants that she was desperate to release. She cursed him.
It wasn't fair. She hadn't meant for this to happen, but the minute his lips had touched hers, her inhibitions were lowered to dangerous levels. He was more intoxicating than any alcohol; he made her higher than any drug could. She kept lying. Kept telling him she hated him and her heart screamed in protest, its racing frantic beating against her ribs desperately trying to tell him she didn't mean it. But he already knew that.

>"And I really hate you too Astrid. I really fucking do." That was it. She knew he knew, she knew what he was saying, and she knew where this was going. She felt something akin to being drunk, but it was better, it was even more. His index fingers hooked onto her leggings and tugged them down. She kicked off her shoes before she even thought about what she was doing. He removed her leggings all together, crawling back over her, kissing her heatedly. This time nothing was getting in their way. Her mind devoid of all rational thought, she let her body do the talking. Her hands fumbled with the

buckle on his belt which was suddenly proving difficult to remove. Once it was undone she undid the zipper on his pants and began trying to remove them. It was made more difficult by the bulge in his underwear, but that's what she was trying to get to. She wanted to get him out of those irritatingly tight jeans. He was grinning again, pausing in his kissing of her every inch to remove his pants and cast them aside. All that stood between them now was a single infuriatingly small item of clothing each.
It was frantic, desperate, urgent. She needed him like she'd never needed anything. Right then, if she'd been dying of thirst in a desert whilst feeling like this and she had a choice between him and water... She'd still have chosen him. It was like an animal that had been hungry for weeks, it was primal, instinctive. Her underwear was lost to his agile fingers. She kissed him along his jaw, sucking at sensitive spots on his neck. His hands moved down and his fingers began working their magic, touching her in ways he knew would make her moan. She bit back a moan, fighting to release him. His lips were on her chest, their every touch like electric on her skin. He gently sucked on a nipple and she lost it. Moaning desperately she tugged again on his underwear. He was rendering her incapable of removing them and she needed them gone. He sat back and looked at her, a dangerous grin on his face. He was teasing her, and he was enjoying it. She sat up and glared, shoving her hand down his underwear enjoying seeing his expression change suddenly. He let out a groan as she grabbed him before he finally removed his underwear. He grabbed her roughly, laying her back again and positioning himself over her. She felt nervous and excited all at once. He glanced at her briefly, his eyes seeking permission from her; in that Hiccup-esque way she loved so much. Her lips captured his by way of response before she gasped and moaned as he finally entered her with a groan. For a moment, neither said a thing. She felt full, complete... but she wanted more. And he gave it to her.

>He began moving in and out of her, slowly at first. She moaned and dragged her nails down his freckled back, inspiring a groan to escape his lips and his hips to buck into her faster. She was panting, gasping. She pulled him down to her, tongue dancing with his, before she bit his lower lip. He practically growled and bit her collarbone, sucking on it to leave his mark. She returned the favour and he thrust harder and faster still. Her legs wrapped around him and her own hips moved to meet his every thrust.
"Fuck...Hiccup..." She gasped. Apparently her desperate gasping of his name only encouraged him. He teased her, slowing down and leaning close to her ear as she arched her back and neck.

>"What do you want Astrid?" He asked, his tone low, husky, teasing. She moaned as he pulled almost right out of her.
"Y...You..." She gasped.

>"What do you want me to do Astrid?" He asked in mock innocence.
"F...F..Fuck me harder... Fuck me Hiccup." He grinned again and resumed his rhythmic thrusting, increasing in speed, panting and moaning himself. "Hiccup... Hic...cup... Don't... Don't stop... Baby... Oh gods..." She moaned.

>"Astrid..." He moaned into her ear. That sent her teetering dangerously close to the edge, and edge she'd never even known existed. He was moaning her name. Her name had never sounded so good before. She was impossibly close. She didn't think anyone ever got this close to that edge the first time. But he had her there. And he wanted her there; he wanted to push her over. He thrust harder and faster, moaning into her ear until she screamed his name, legs tightening their hold on his waist, her walls contracting around him as with a small shudder he came inside her.<p>

He pulled out of her with a groan and lay on the floor beside her. Everything felt different. She felt things she'd never felt. An odd sensation of satisfaction settling inside her. Still panting she turned her head to look at him, a grin plastered across her face. He looked back at her, grinning as much as she was.

>"What do you know... we finally caught a break." He said.<p>

"Do you think it'll work?" Ruff asked taking a bite out of a slice of pizza.

>"It's our best shot." Tuff said sipping his soda. Snotlout shook his head.
"What, locking them both in the academy overnight?"

>"At least it's a weekend so they've got time." Tuff pointed out.
"That's not necessarily a good thing. We'll have to open the doors tomorrow morning or they might kill either each other or us." Fishlegs replied. They'd left after they locked them in. Part of them worried the two would kill each other, the other certain they'd come around. Either that or they'd talk it out and still not want to see each other, but they'd put everything to rest.

"I hope they sort things out. I really do. I don't like them fighting." Ruff admitted. "Kind of makes any relationship seem fruitless doesn't it?"

"Yeah. If they can't make it who can?" Snotlout asked.

"Don't get like that. People make it work whether Astrid and Hiccup do or not." Fishlegs reassured.

"I ship Hiccstrid to the end." Tuff said. "And I'll scream that at their weddings, whether they marry each other or someone else."

"If they marry someone else you might get thrown out for it." Fishlegs pointed out. Tuff shrugged.

"It would be totally worth it."

>"Let's just hope they worked it out. Then you can shout it at their wedding and they'll probably just laugh." Snotlout said sighing. He really hoped they worked it out. He glanced at Ruff who was nibbling her pizza thoughtfully.
"You ok Ruff?" He asked.

"Yeah I'm fine. I guess this has all just got me thinking."

>"Dangerous." Tuff teased and she hit him. "Whatever. If they did work things out... do you reckon they'd do it?"
"Tuff!" Exclaimed Fishlegs. Tuff laughed.

>"I'm just asking! Do you reckon they'd fuck?"<p>

"No! Hiccup is a sensible and good-natured guy. If they work things out, he'll repair the relationship before he lets anything happen between them!" He replied to Tuff.

"He has a point. It would be the Hiccup thing to do..." Ruff began.

"But?" Tuff asked eagerly.

"Astrid's been wanting to tap that for months, she might make the first move. And I doubt Hiccup would say no."

"See I think he would. He'd tell her to slow down, that they have to repair the damage before anything happens."

"Eurgh that's boring." She complained.

"But it's wise."

"Now you guys sound like them. I can see it all unfolding here in the pizza parlour." Snotlout snickered.

"Hiccup won't rush into anything. Once he's back, he'll take things slow and steady." Fishlegs said confidently.

"Hiccup! Baby come on!" Astrid moaned as his fingers teased her.

"What? I'm just teasing." He laughed, moving his hand away and letting it rest on her bare inner thigh.
>"Don't tease! You either do or you don't."
"I'm sorry. It's just hard to resist."

"Well learn to!"

"Says you! We used to make out anywhere you fancied; you'd corner me in the forge or drag me into the changing rooms..."

"Oh shut up you!" She giggled hitting his chest lightly. He laughed and rolled onto his side to kiss her forehead.

"I can't believe I wasted all those weeks. I should have been spending every second with you." He whispered brushing her hair out of her face. She smiled at him.
>"I guess we just have to make up for the lost time."<p>

"Can I start making up for it now?" He asked grinning at her. She grinned and shoved him back onto his back with one hand, sitting on him to keep him from moving much.

"You started making up for it about forty two minutes ago."
>"Are you counting the minutes?" He laughed. "Mmm... I quite like this actually. You in control." He said, his eyes drinking her in, looking up her body hungrily. She'd never felt so desired before. There was something about Hiccup looking at her like that that she loved.
"Oh you like this do you?" She grinned back at him, hands running up his chest, leaning down over him to kiss him. "How much do you like it?" She whispered into his ear, nibbling at his lobe. He groaned.

>"Not fair... Now you're teasing."
"Tell me how much you like it Hiccup and maybe I'll stop teasing."

>"Don't... you're teasing again."
"Tell me."

>"Tease."
"Tell me" He sat up, keeping her in his lap.

>"Does that explain how much I like it?" He asked and she kissed him hard.
"Oh yeah... That tells me." She laughed at the growing warmth between them. With a small smirk she shoved him back down and repositioned herself over him, sliding onto his length with a moan.

>"Oh gods Astrid..."<p>

"Ok what's the betting on what we find?" Tuff asked as they headed towards the academy the next day.

>"I'm going to hope we find them both sat looking pretty peeved that they've been locked in, but not mad at each other." Fishlegs said.
"I'm going to go with we'll find them both naked on the floor. Make up and sex definitely." Ruff grinned.
>"No chance." Fishlegs replied.
"Snot?"
>"I think we'll find them sat on opposite sides of the academy either glaring at each other or not looking at each other. And I reckon Hiccup will have a red hand print or a bruise where she hit him."
"And how about you Tuff?" Ruff asked. He looked thoughtful.

>"I'm on the fence. Can't decide between her beating the stuffing out of him and them having sex so I'll say both. Angry sex."
"Moment of truth." Fishlegs said as they unlocked the academy and peered in afraid of what they might find...

"YES! I WIN!" Someone shouted and Astrid and Hiccup looked up and groaned.

>"Oh great."
"You guys are here."

>"I think I can see Astrid's breasts..." A shoe hit Tuff in the face as Astrid tugged the wool blanket tighter over her.
"Why are you here?" Hiccup asked sitting up and rubbing his eyes.

>"To see if you guys were still mad at each other." Ruff said, her eyes locked on Hiccup's bare chest and the line of hair from his belly button that disappeared beneath the dragons' blanket. A shoe hit Ruff full in the face.
"Keep your eyes on his face only." Astrid muttered as she sat up, keeping the blanket held against her bare chest.

>"YES! She's defensive again! You guys made up!" Ruff cheered, punching the air.<p>

"That's one was to put it." Hiccup said grinning sheepishly and rubbing the back of his neck awkwardly.

"Ok, I have to ask. How did this happen?" Fishlegs asked gesturing to their nakedness. They looked at each other and blushed.

"I told him I hated him." Astrid said.

"And I saw through her."

"So angry sex?" Tuff asked grinning wildly.

"Yeah kind of. It was only sort of angry, it was more just aggressive and... urgent." Hiccup said.

"Why does it matter?"

"We may have bet on what we'd find here."

"Who won?"

"I think me and Tuff have to share victory. I said make up and sex. He said angry sex."

"Well I think you do have to share then. I think the main making up bit happened after the sex..."

"SUCCESS!" Tuff laughed punching the air.

"I didn't think you were that kind of guy Hiccup. I figured if you

made up... You'd wait until everything was repaired before doing it."

"Normally, I'd say the same... but uh, well."

"Is he an animal?" Ruff asked Astrid grinning like a Cheshire cat. Astrid smirked.

"It was totally primal the first time. Animalistic, instinctive. All passion and desire."

"The first time?!" Ruff and Snotlout exclaimed.

"That's my boy!" Tuff cheered as Hiccup groaned

"Astrid! Do you have to talk about it in front of them?"

"Sorry babe."

"SHE CALLED HIM BABE! HICCSTRID IS BACK!" Astrid couldn't remember Ruff looking more gleeful as she skipped out with the others to let them redress.

"Alright girl. I want details."

>"No way Ruff." Astrid said as they walked into the girls bathroom at the gangs favourite burger bar.<p>

"Oh come on! Just a few little things... Is he little?!"

"I'm not telling you Ruff! What Hiccup and I did is our business!" She snapped, checking her reflection in the mirror. "Have you got a brush I can borrow? My hair is a mess."

"Yeah but you can't use it."

"Let me guess you want details in exchange?"

"Right in one!"

"Forget it. I'll cope with my fingers."

"You don't have to, you have Hiccup now" Ruff teased earning herself a hit on her shoulder. "Come on just a few juicy little details."

"I said forget it!"

"Ok just give me something..."

>"He's good. He is seriously good. The first time we did it, it was raw and frenzied, primal and animalistic and he was totally in control. He took me and he was on top and everything. Second time we did it, I was on top. And believe me, he liked that."<p>

"Was that as heated?"

"Still pretty heated. But it was different in a good way."

"And third time?"

"What makes you think there's been a third time already?"

"Just a guess." Astrid looked at her friend.

"We only had sex the two times."

"So what happened after that?"

"We made sure we'd talked everything out. We're not screwing this up again. He told me he'd been insecure, like he said before. But this time we really talked. We both apologised and we ironed out the creases. Then we just fell asleep in each other's arms."

"Ok I do want to know one little detail. I've got to know..."

"If it'll shut you up." Ruff grinned and held out two fingers to gesture a length.

"If I were to say that's err... well... That's Snotlout..."

"More information than I ever need to know about him."

"What's Hiccup like in comparison?" Astrid's eyes suddenly flashed wickedly. She looked almost smug as she held two fingers up herself. "No..."

"Yup... And by the gods does he know how to use it."

"He's seriously...?"

"Uh huh."

"Hello Hiccup!" Ruff whistled her appreciation.

"Back off he's mine."

"Alright then... You go girl. That's a pretty impressive... Dragon!" She said suddenly as another girl walked into the bathroom. They both giggled. "An impressive dragon!"

"It sure is, and riding it is the biggest thrill ever."

"Alright Hiccup. You gotta tell us... What's Astrid really like?"

"I am not talking about this! Our relationship is private!"

"You know she'll be telling Ruff everything?" Tuff said.

"No she won't."

"Dude, I lived with a sister. Only I know what girls tell each other. They tell each other everything. Not just feelings and shit. They talk about technique, kissing, about size..."

"Size?!" Hiccup and Snotlout exclaimed in horror.

"Yup. I know how big you are Snot. She was less than discreet when she was explaining it." Snotlout turned red. "I guarantee you, Ruff will know more than you'd like when she walks out of there. So come on, tell us a bit!" Hiccup glanced around nervously. He felt considerably prouder than he should have and he did kind of want to gloat, brag and show off. After making sure Astrid and Ruff were not

about to walk out he turned grinning back to the others, even Fishlegs looked eager.

"Alright. What do you want to know? And I'm not going to give every detail..."

"Of course, it's still intimate and private and well, we're not girls." Tuff said pulling his drink across the table and sipping it. "Begin my boy... correction, my man."

"How did it happen?" Fishlegs asked leaning closer to hear. "I mean, how did you go from the yelling match to... well that."

"Well, she was yelling at me, and she was right to. I was a total jerk and I owe you guys an apology for that too..."

>"You can pay for this then. Carry on." Tuff said waving an airy hand.<p>

"Anyway... we were arguing because I finally clicked how she really felt about me..."

"Took you long enough." Snotlout muttered.

"And then she kept denying it. Insisting she didn't feel that way, so I called her a liar."

"Ooooh!" They all laughed

"Bet she didn't like that!" Snotlout said grinning.

"No she didn't. So we were arguing about that, and she changed tack, saying it was me who fucked up."

"She backed down from the challenge?!" Fishlegs asked in disbelief.

"Sort of. I admitted it was my fault and asked if she really was too proud to admit her feelings."

"And she said?" Fishlegs asked, his eyes wide with anticipation.

"She said she was too proud." The others all grinned at him "So I threw caution to the wind and said I thought this was an opportunity and I was going to take it."

"An opportunity for what?!" Fishlegs was almost wetting himself with excitement. It made the others laugh.

"That's what she said."

"OHHHH!" Tuff laughed

"So I shut her up by kissing her hard."

>"YES! That's the way!" Snotlout high fived Hiccup grinning madly.<p>

"She pushed me away and started yelling again and calling me a jerk and an idiot and such... I just agreed with her. I had her now. I knew it."

"Oooh I love it when these things get juicy."

"She said she hated me and we argued again. Those petty 'do' 'don't' arguments. She tried hitting me, I took advantage of that. I grabbed her wrist and pulled her in to kiss her again."

"Nice!"

"She was still muttering that she hated me. That she didn't love me. But it didn't stop her kissing me back."

"Please tell me you guys fucked at this point, please..." Tuff pleaded closing his eyes and smirking.

"Yeah, things got pretty hot pretty fast. She said she really hated me. I told her I hated her too. Then off came the last of the clothes and well, you know."

"Respect. Did you make her moan?"

>"Yeah. I even got her to tell me she wanted me, that she wanted me to, and I quote 'fuck her harder'"<p>

"And did you?" Snotlout asked.

"Yeah of course I did. It was pretty amazing. She's the most incredible girl ever."

"She's a woman now. You took away Astrid Hofferson's virginity dude. I request the highest of fives!" Tuff grinned standing up and holding up his hand. Hiccup couldn't resist his ego as he high fived him.

>"What about the second time? Astrid mentioned that..."<p>

"All I'm going to say is sometimes it's really fucking good when she's in charge."

>"Astrid was on top?!"<p>

"And believe me it was good. Watching her... Man alive..."

>"You must bump this fist! Serious respect dude!" They all grinned madly; fist bumping Hiccup as the girls reappeared.<p>

"Hey guys. Hey you." Astrid said as she walked over. Hiccup leaned back casually in his chair, his head hanging back to allow Astrid to kiss him.

"Hey yourself."

"Awwww I've actually missed seeing you guys act like that! Hang on... this deserves a snapshot... Ruff... Ruff?" Tuff said. Ruff was staring at Hiccup, a slightly arched eyebrow.

>"Errr, hi Ruff?" He said noticing her gaze.<p>

"He...llo!" She said appreciatively. Astrid glared.

"Watch it Ruff." She said warningly.

"Alright alright." Ruff put her hands up in surrender. "Ok now just hold there, we need a snapshot, my brother is right!" The familiar flash and click of Ruff's mobile went and they all laughed. Finally

things were normal again.

Sorry this took so long... Trying to keep up with everything is hard! But I hope you'll enjoy this. Finally got Hiccstrid smut full on. Let me know what you think!

23. Chapter 23

Here's the next chapter. I'm not entirely sure I'm 100% happy with it, but I'm still getting to grips with writing this sort of thing. Warning: Smut content.

I hope you enjoy it anyway.

When Hiccup got home, he was grinning wildly. The stupidly giddy grin on his face was unlikely to go unnoticed for long.

>"You look happy lad." Gobber commented. Hiccup didn't know how to respond. He hadn't come home yesterday, so he was wearing the same clothes... That was bound to lead to awkward questions.
"Errr yeah, I'm in a pretty good mood." He couldn't lie about that. The grin wouldn't leave his face, he felt like he'd slept with a coat-hanger in his mouth.

>"I noticed ye didn't come home last night."<p>

"Errr yeah about that... I stayed some place else."

"So I figured. Grown up or not lad, ye could have dropped either me or yer dad a message telling us you weren't going ta be home. Toothless came back but ye didn't."

"Yeah. I didn't plan to be out that long. I never planned to stay out overnight. Things just sort of... happened."

"With Heather?" Hiccup noticed the less than pleased tone in his voice despite his attempts to mask it.

"She's not my girlfriend."

"Not very reassuring given your behaviour with her."

>"I know I've not exactly been myself lately, and that I've acted pretty stupidly..."<p>

"Exceptionally so. Never thought Stoick and I would be considering planning an intervention for you about your attitude to drinking and flirting..."

"Please don't remind me. That's all behind me now. Everything is going to be back to normal."

>"So last night, you and Heather..."<p>

"No. Like I said, she's not my girlfriend."

"Doesn't mean you weren't with her last night."

"No, I told her I wasn't going to see her last night, I owed Toothless an apology, I needed to make it up to him for how I've been acting since the break up."

"Oh aye? So why did Toothless come back without ya?"

"Astrid came in and we had a fight." He didn't really want to say anymore, not to Gobber anyway.

"Oh so you spent the whole night fighting with Astrid in the academy?" Hiccup's brain involuntarily flashed back over their encounter, every hot, urgent, angry, passionate moment.
>"Well... we didn't fight the WHOLE night."<p>

"Is that so? What did you do the whole night then?" His eyebrow arched dangerously high on his bald head and Hiccup's mind once again flashed over various images of the previous night.
>"We argued and then err... we erm, put things to rest."
"And how exactly did you manage that? You were so mad you were playing make-out games with Heather."

"Yeah, I was just trying to make Astrid jealous and well... I finally figured out I'd been really really stupid about everything. I was completely stupid. She never wanted Eret, she only wanted me and I pushed her away and ran to Heather and just pushed her further away."

>"You finally caught on then? Ya know, she was so bloody miserable she stopped training?"
"Please don't make me feel worse, I feel awful about it all but we've put it behind us. We're ok now. Things will be normal again now. Everything is o..." Hiccup's phone suddenly began to ring.

>"Ya need to take that?" Gobber muttered. Heather phoned him a lot lately. Gobber didn't doubt it was her.
"Yeah, hang on... Hello?" He answered and then suddenly turned away, cheeks flushing. "I can't talk right now, I'm with Gobber..." Gobber raised an eyebrow again. He hadn't often turned Heather away when she called, but he did usually go for the cabinet of scotch or grab a beer from the fridge. "I... Oh gods don't... Come on that's not...Oh no don't." Gobber couldn't work out what exactly was going on and he strained an ear trying to figure it out. "Ohhhh babe no... Don't do that to me..." Babe? Heather? He'd only ever referred to her as Heather that Gobber had heard. He made a sudden hissing noise like he was blowing air through his teeth. "You tease... You've done it now. Just... Gods you're so impatient! Can you at least wait for me to excuse myself?" Gobber rolled his eyes ready to exit the room. He wasn't sure he wanted to hear this. "F...Astrid!" Gobber's head snapped back. Astrid? He was talking to Astrid? "Come on... Don't... Oh you little... you did it. I'm going to hang up on you now... No you can call back but I won't pick up... I'm serious... No you can't... Ok then I might have to call you... No that is not supposed to give you ideas... Astrid don't even... Astrid? Astrid!" He shoved his phone back in his pocket, keeping his back turned.

>"So you and Astrid?"
"Errr... yeah... we, we definitely made up."

>"And are you two an item again now?"
"I... Well... Considering the given factors... I'd like to think so. I mean, we talked everything out after..." He flushed brightly and Gobber could see his ears turn red.

>"After? After what?"<p>

"Nothing! I didn't say anything! I have to go, I've got something I need to take care of..."

>"Oh have ya now? What did Astrid want?"<p>

"Nothing! I've got to go!" Gobber couldn't help laughing as Hiccup

hurried from the room.

Astrid was sat back at the apartment. Ruff was being nosy about everything, but then very strangely and considerately, she decided to leave the apartment for a few hours. In the silence and emptiness of the apartment, she found her mind on Hiccup and temptation over-ruled her.

>She lay back on her bed, hands creeping lower. But it wasn't the same. It wasn't so much fun without him. She'd had the real thing now, nothing else compared. She could picture him all she liked, but it wasn't the same without hearing his voice, his groans... Her eyes flew open as a wicked thought crossed her mind. She needed to hear him. Maybe she could tease him a little, or maybe she could get him to join her. Well, in his own way.
She grabbed her mobile and dialled his number waiting anxiously for the answer.

>"Hey babe... Guess what I want." She couldn't help grinning wildly. He was with Gobber? Oh now she could really have some fun teasing him. But the sound of his voice alone was enough to help her along. "I want you babe... Touching myself just isn't so much fun anymore. I'm picturing you, I'm trying to pretend it's your hand down there, picturing you hot and sweaty panting above me... But it's just not the same. I needed to hear your voice." He was stuttering awkwardly and she loved it. "Oh gods babe... I wish you were here with me. I need you to touch me, I want you." She brushed her folds, sliding her fingers back and forth, brushing her clit sending her mind whirling. It wasn't the same, but it was still good. "Talk to me babe, I need to hear your voice as I finger myself." She could hear him groan and that only encouraged her. She rubbed herself in the ways she'd long since perfected, pushing herself closer to that edge Hiccup had sent her teetering over the previous night. "Oh babe... I want you to join me. Come on... I want to hear you moan my name again..." She could hear him cursing and moaning somewhat, requesting she pause long enough for him to excuse himself. It wasn't going to happen. She moaned his name loudly and he complained loudly about her finishing without him. She grinned to herself. Maybe next time.
"Oh don't hang up, excuse yourself and we'll try it again. Well maybe I'll just call you back later. Well I'll keep calling..." He was claiming he'd ignore her calls. "What if I sent you a picture of me? Totally naked just waiting for you?" She grinned at his response. She knew she'd get him eventually. "Well then that's exactly what I'll do. Ha... wait for my photo then babe... I'll look forward to later!" With that she hung up, she liked teasing him, but words could not describe how excited she was to have him back in her life.

Hiccup returned downstairs quite some time later. Having excused himself to relieve himself after Astrid's little call; he'd been too embarrassed to come downstairs. Then just as he was starting to feel hungry enough to brave entering the kitchen... She'd sent that damned photo. He'd just frozen and stared for quite some time. He might have seen her naked now, but that was something else entirely. It was different seeing her like that. She was just kneeling on the bed, legs wide enough apart that he would fit comfortably between them... She'd obviously set it on a timer because one arm was raised and knotted in her hair, the other resting oh-so closely to that crucial area.

>And of course, she was completely naked. He made a mental note never to let anyone else touch his phone again and to password protect the photo itself. She was sending him nude photos... His Astrid... Nude... Astrid... His...
That had led to him becoming very hard very quickly.

>There was nothing else for it. He'd managed to think of anything but the photo, with some difficulty and was now creeping downstairs with every intention of hopping on his bike and driving straight to her apartment and having his way with her right there.
The only trouble was, his dad and Gobber were both downstairs and Gobber had likely mentioned the conversation he'd overheard. Hiccup was done for.

>"Ye know... The lad had a phone call from Astrid earlier."
"Oh no... how much yelling was there? I'm surprised I didn't hear it from across the city."

>"Actually... No yelling at all."<p>

"Really? Amazing. They haven't spoken in so long, especially not without yelling."

"Aye, no yelling nothing."

"So where is he now? Run off with Toothless? Or run down the pub?"

"Neither so far as I'm aware. I believe he had to go 'take care of something' "

"That doesn't sound good."

"Well going by his blushing and some of his comments... I'd say it's not what you think."

"Oh?"

"I think he went to err... relieve himself." Hiccup was ready to melt into a puddle of humiliation right there outside the door. He really wanted to get out of here and go to Astrid's. Then he wouldn't have to hear this.

"Hiccup? He went to... Oh... But does that mean...?"

"I think little Hiccup might have become a man last night." Yup, he was going to die right there.

"So you mean he didn't come home because..."

"He said he was in the academy with Astrid and that they argued... but he did say they didn't argue all night."

"But that doesn't necessarily mean..."

"He said they talked everything out 'after'... then he hurried out refusing to say what they did before."

"Well I never. So my son and Astrid..."

"It certainly seems so. Haven't seen him since but I think there was mention of another call... I didn't like to disturb."

"Do you think I should go knock or...?"

"That would probably put him right off. So I suggest maybe not. We'll give him a call for dinner, just yell, and then at least he won't feel like we're listening at the door." Hiccup then made a huge show

of stomping down the stairs and yelling out as he ran towards the garage.

>"I'm going out! I'll see you at some point if I'm not back tonight!" He hurried to start his bike tugging on his leathers and helmet as his father called after him.<p>

"Wait! Hiccup where are you going?" He didn't reply, he revved the engine, kicked up the kickstand and drove out of the garage as fast as he could.

She felt frustrated. He was ignoring her. After all that, he wasn't going to call and he wasn't answering his phone... She'd tugged on her dressing gown and slumped, far more disappointed than she'd thought she would be. She felt so frustrated and disappointed that she'd decided next time she saw him she'd ignore his initial greetings and she'd certainly not be putting out anytime soon. That might last a day... Of course if that slut Heather came sneaking in she'd take Hiccup roughly there and then if it made it clear that he was not on the market... But she was definitely going to make sure he knew she was annoyed about this.

There was a knock on the door which she chose to ignore, too annoyed to answer. But the knocking carried on, relentlessly, insistently, urgent. With a grunt she stormed out of her room and threw the door open.

>"What?!" She snapped as she did so, but her words were instantly cut as a mouth crashed against hers. It took her a moment to comprehend what was happening, to figure out who had grabbed her so roughly around her waist and crashed their mouth against hers.
But those lips were delightfully familiar and with a small gasp she dragged him back into the apartment.

>"What... what are you doing here?" She gasped breaking away from him for a moment.
"You sent that photo... What did you expect?" He growled as his lips moved to her neck.

>"I thought you'd answer your phone! Or call me back!" She exclaimed "I was so annoyed at you!" Not that that was going to last given that he'd turned up on her door step and was kissing her all over.
"Can I fix that?" He murmured, gently sucking at sensitive spots on her neck. "Are you not wearing anything?"

>"No... Maybe... I just tugged on the dressing gown because I was frustrated."
"Mmmm... can I take it off?" Gods yes. She wanted him to take it off so badly.

>"Not here... My room..." He didn't hesitate. He grabbed her and carried her back into her room, closing the door with a foot and practically throwing her onto the bed and tugging her dressing gown open.
"Someone's keen" She chuckled as his lips brushed lower over her chest.

>"Someone sent me a very provocative photo... Of course I'm keen."
"I can tell. You're pretty hard babe."

>"I told you, you sent that damn photo. I've been sporting a partial since I opened it." She couldn't help grinning.
"Then why the hell are you still in those pants." She growled tugging at the belt buckle. If this was going to become a habit... he might need to start wearing slacks around her place so he was easier to free. He was all too happy to wriggle out of his pants and throw his shirt and jacket to the floor. It took longer than she was happy about because he was still wearing bike leathers and boots.

>Finally though, she had him stripped, groaning as he sank into her.<p>

It wasn't something she'd ever tire of. She could smell the slight hint of musky sweat but with a distinct leathery hint to it. Something distinctly Hiccup. She grinned into her pillow, adjusting her position. There was a grumble of indignation from behind her as Hiccup shifted to accommodate her changed position. His arm was draped over her, keeping her close to him as if afraid she might slip away at any moment. She didn't mind. Truth be known, she preferred going to sleep with him there holding onto her.

Their activities had been as heated as before and Hiccup's back was raked with red scratches from it. She'd savoured every moan that escaped his lips, every pant and every whisper of her name. Nothing could ever live up to the feeling she got from him. She wanted to curse him, for ruining how much pleasure she could give herself without him, but that would be a fruitless effort. He might have ruined that, but he'd shown her ways to feel pleasure like she never had before.

The trouble with having a shared apartment was that Ruff had obviously returned after a while. Fortunately they'd finished by that point, but Ruff was under no illusions and Astrid was sure her best friend had been listening all night for any tell-tale sounds of further activity. Astrid had decided then and there that the two of them would have to come up with a strict plan about which of them could use the apartment for such activities and when. She did not want to carry on with this awkward deal of walking in to copious moans and yells from her room-mates room, or the knowledge that her roommate could unintentionally walk in and ruin the mood with Hiccup.

They definitely needed a plan.

Sunlight was daring to creep in through the window, bringing with it a new day and new problems. Not that Astrid or Hiccup was thinking about that. Waking up beside each other, they'd both grinned. Neither had moved for quite some time, they just lay there, talking, just like they used to do. Hiccup told Astrid about what he'd overheard yesterday before he'd come over and they laughed. It was refreshing and familiar, laughing together again.

When they finally dragged themselves out into the living area, Ruff was already awake and grinning madly.

"Good morning lovebirds!"

"Morning Ruff." They responded without much enthusiasm, the grin on her face was like a warning siren.

"So Hiccup, what time did you get here last night then?"

"Probably around half eight."

"You guys have fun then? I mean, I didn't get back till gone eleven so you had plenty of time to..."

"Ruff!" Astrid hissed as she poured herself some cereal. "Babe you want something?"

>"I think I'll just have..."<p>

"BABE! Oh gods I will never, NEVER, get tired of hearing you call him

that! I had no idea how much I missed it!"

"Ok, that's not weird at all. What were you saying?" Astrid asked as he chuckled.

"I don't think I'll get tired of hearing her call me babe either Ruff. I think I'll just get some coffee and grab something on my way home."

"Oh my gods was this some sort of booty call?!" Ruff exclaimed. Neither knew quite what to call it and so denied it.

"I've got to go home to get my stuff together, since you seem to have forgotten that it's Monday and we have classes in, oh maybe half an hour." He remarked grinning.

"SHIT!" Both girls exclaimed. After that it became a frantic morning rush to get ready and get out.

Astrid and Ruff were fifteen minutes late to homeroom and got yelled at, a lot. Heather smirked like a cat that got the cream.
>"She was probably sat around over-indulging in junk food and sulking. You can actually see where those extra pounds are starting to catch her up. Such a shame really. Junk food and quitting training... it's all had a very bad effect on you Astrid. You look awful."<p>

Astrid threw herself across the room and began trying to tear Heather apart.

"Gods! Get off! All that extra weight you've gained is suffocating me!" Heather hissed as Astrid pinned her to the floor and attempted to punch her in the face. Fishlegs, Snotlout and Tuff, pulled her back before she could. Tuff muttering furiously in her ear.
>"Leave it! Trust me, Ruff and I know a much better way to get revenge on that slut!" She stopped fighting to look between the twins. Gobber put her in detention at lunch and told her to start her training up again because he needed her back. As they left the room, still no Hiccup, Astrid turned to the twins again.<p>

"You really know a way?" They flashed her identical, evil smiles.

"Oh yeah, we know a way."

Hiccup turned up about ten minutes into the chemistry lesson. He apologised for his lateness and took his usual seat beside Fishlegs. He glanced towards Astrid, who was sat in deep conversation with Ruffnut. She paused briefly to look at him and smile before they continued their discussion. Fishlegs could hardly fail to notice that Hiccup's attention wavered occasionally during the lesson. But he realised, he had missed it. Hiccup losing focus because he was watching Astrid, Hiccup focusing casually but not over-confident, it was normal and right.

"I missed this."

"What?"

"My best friend. I missed you getting distracted by Astrid and

sitting here hunched over the bench with quiet concentration rather than the over-confident cocky thing you've been doing lately. It's just nice to have you back." He commented and Hiccup rubbed the back of his neck uncomfortably.

"I guess I really was a jerk."

"Yup."

"I didn't realise our relationship could affect you guys so badly."

"Nor did we. But suddenly all those things were gone. We actually missed walking in on you guys making out someplace, it was better than the yelling."

"I'm really sorry Fish. You're my best friend, human friend, and I treated you like crap."

"Yeah you did. And I'll forgive you for it, but you're still going to have to make it up to us all." Hiccup sighed heavily.

"I know. I feel so bad about it now. It's like... I swear, I'm not trying to make excuses here, but it's like it wasn't even me you know? It's like there was this other guy, this jerk who took over my body and made me act like that. Because thinking over it now, I don't know how I could ever have done those things." It was Fishlegs' turn to sigh this time.

"That's because it wasn't you. Not really. You weren't acting like yourself. It doesn't excuse your actions, but deep down, it wasn't you."

"I suppose you're right. But I was obviously still thinking like me partially because I never slept with Heather. She wanted to, but every time it reached that point, something in my brain would just go off and I had to get out of there."

"Well at least you didn't sleep with her. You'd have lost Astrid for good if you had."

"I know..." Hiccup ran a hand through his hair "I can't believe how lucky I am. I screwed up. I screwed up big time and by some miracle; I'm being given another chance. Part of me thinks I don't deserve it."

"Part of you doesn't. The jerk doesn't deserve a chance. You do. You've been head over heels in love with Astrid since we were kids. You'd never do anything to hurt her. Not really."

"But I did Fish, I did hurt her."

"Yeah, because you were stupid."

"I wish I'd talked to her that day. You know, when you tried to make me see sense and dragged me to see her?" He sighed again. "Maybe we wouldn't have missed all that time if I had."

>"True... but like I said, you were being stupid. Eret went to talk to her and you misjudged the situation. Obviously it upset you, out of context, I can see how you saw it. It was just bad timing."<p>

"I know. She explained everything. I feel like such an idiot Fishlegs. I was such a fool. I still am I guess." Fishlegs placed a hand on his shoulder.

"That's because you're in love Hiccup. And everyone becomes a bit of a fool when they're in love. And they do really stupid things. But if they really love each other, then those things stop mattering, because they're just two fools in love." Hiccup was looking over at Astrid again, his expression almost sad. "And you two may just be the biggest fools I know." Fishlegs said, smiling warmly at him. Finally, Hiccup smiled back.

Everything felt better now. Free period in the forge was no longer for relieving himself of stress from the situation with Astrid... Although he did have to ignore her text to ensure he didn't have to relieve himself in any other way.

He ended up having to anyway when he allowed his mind to misuse the word pounding.

Biology was normal, Fishlegs made an inappropriate comment about biological urges and Hiccup realised how much he'd missed the annoying jokes and teasing. It was better than the stony silences.

He didn't see Astrid at lunch, Ruff told him Gobber gave her detention after she tried to commit murder in homeroom. No one wanted to elaborate much, but Ruff did eventually mutter that you never call a girl fat. Hiccup could guess what had happened.

Dragon training had been infinitely better. Stormfly and Toothless were exceptionally happy that their riders were on speaking terms again and Toothless gave a happy warble when Astrid kissed him. It seemed even the dragons were glad to see them together again.

They made an impromptu lesson, discussing how the dragons' emotional ranges could be affected by their own and discussing the importance of play for them. It almost ended up giving the impression that the dragons were like kids and the riders the parents. The dragons spent most the lesson playing around, all of them much happier to be able to play together as they pleased.

Since Astrid was starting her training up again tonight, Hiccup decided to hang around after school to see her. He'd not been down to the training field since they broke up, and part of him was really nervous about going down there in case he saw Eret.

Astrid wanted him, he knew that now. He understood it. But it didn't stop him feeling anxious. Eret was much stockier than him, if only a few inches taller, if he wanted to hurt Hiccup, he probably could with ease. And what if Eret got suddenly jealous seeing him back with Astrid? What might he do? How would Astrid handle the situation? Nothing would change between them... would it? Of course not. He wasn't going to be that stupid again.

There she was, his goddess, his perfect beautiful Astrid. She was walking up and down the track, drinking from her blue water bottle as she did so. He recognised it as her cool down. He was making his way across to her when two things happened.

Eret jogged past Astrid waving at her, making something clench painfully on Hiccup's insides when she waved back. At the same time, Heather stormed towards him, looking less than happy. His insides clenched more at the sight of her. This was not going to be good.

"Why didn't you call?!" She snapped.

"Errr..."

"You blew me off, and I was mad. But you never tried to call once over the weekend to see if I was mad at you!"

"Errr..."

"Hiccup Haddock why the fuck did you not call me?!"

"Errr..."

"You're going to need a better answer than that!"

"Errr..." She looked like she might kill him.

"Are you going to explain yourself to me?"

"Errr... no?"

"You'd better fucking explain yourself!"

"Why?"

"Because you blew me off you fuck-tard!"

"My best friend needed me." He tried not to let his eyes wander over her shoulder to Astrid. Or to think about the fact that Eret was jogging back around towards her again.

"You still could have fucking called!"

"Errr... Sorry?"

"Is that all you have to say for yourself?!"

"Errr... Yes?"

"You... Ok... Ok... I'm still annoyed, but we're going to overlook this ok? I'm going to go now, and we're going to forget about this. Tomorrow things go back to how they were. Got it? Good." Without giving him a chance to reply, or to explain, she kissed him hard, attempting to shove her tongue in his mouth but failing since his lips clamped shut upon contact with hers. His eyes just widened in shock and he prayed Astrid wasn't watching.

Heather finally broke away from him and stormed off in even more of a huff at his lack of response to her kiss. Hiccup's eyes sought Astrid. She was looking straight at him and she was glaring. Eret was fast approaching her, Hiccup feared she'd take a tit for tat revenge and kiss Eret to spite him.

She didn't. She turned on her heel and stormed off. He didn't hesitate for a second, wiping his mouth he ran after her, yelling her name frantically.

She was headed for the changing rooms and toilets... if she went in, he'd never be able to follow her to explain. It was one thing when she dragged him in there in the past; it was another to follow her in when she was mad.

"Astrid wait! I swear, that wasn't what it looked like! I swear I didn't..." She turned round cutting him off and shoving her water bottle into his hand.

"Rinse your mouth out, with soap if you fucking have to." She sounded so angry that he considered actually using soap. Somewhat confused he did as instructed.

"Ok, I rinsed my mouth out. Now can you explain why I had to...?" She was suddenly shoving him hard into the disabled loo and locking the door behind her. He didn't have a chance to question her actions since she chose that precise moment to shove him against the wall and ram her mouth against his.

This kiss though, he responded to.

"Astrid... What...?" He asked completely baffled.

"You're mine. No one else gets to kiss you or touch you but me." She growled, tugging restlessly at his top until he yielded and let her pull it over his head.

"I am yours yes, but what are you..." She started kissing his neck and sucking at spots on it. He knew full well that her actions were going to leave very obvious hickeys on his neck. "Astrid! Everyone will see those there!"

"Good!" Finally he cottoned on to what was happening. She was defensive, and in a more extreme way than she had ever been before. He wasn't sure that letting her carry on like this was the best decision. But it was very hard to reason when all the blood from his brain was rapidly rushing to his genitals.

"Astrid... are you trying to mark your territory?" He managed to ask.

"I might be." She murmured against his skin, her hands undoing his belt with increased speed and practice.

"Jeez Astrid... It would be more obvious if you'd just peed over my stuff! She's not going to have a clue about this."

"That's what the hickeys are for... But you might have a point." He sighed, ready to try and relax before having to relieve his hard-on. "But we're still doing this."

"Wha...what?! Here?!"

"Yup. Right here. I want you here and now. She touched you and now I need to, and then some." He couldn't quite decide if he liked this

idea or not. He thought about Eret waving at Astrid, how she'd waved back... Eh, was it so bad to have their way with each other right there and then? He stopped fighting the urge to ram her against the wall and have his way with her, if she was going to get territorial, he would too. She was his. His and no one else's. And he wanted to make that fact known.

He quickly changed tactics, hoisting her up and pressing her into the wall, kissing her hard, his tongue dancing with hers. He felt her grin into his lips as he tugged her shirt off and she then used her heels to nudge his pants down slightly. It didn't take them long to have removed enough items of clothing to perform their wicked act. He took her there, against the wall of the disabled toilet. He thrust into her and she wrapped her legs tightly around his waist to stay upright. She was gasping and panting. Faint whispers of his name escaped her lips and it only thrilled him more hearing her like that. He didn't let up once. He left his mark on her neck, on her collarbone. As he finished he rested his head between her breasts, panting heavily.

He felt her kiss the top of his head, panting herself.

"Babe... Let's get defensive and territorial more often." She panted, her fingers knotting in his hair as he looked up, moving his head slightly reluctantly. She was grinning at him, and he couldn't help grinning too.

24. Chapter 24

I'm really sorry for my absence but I've been so busy with work and my degree. I am still writing all my fics but things are so very busy at the moment that it's proving difficult to keep up with them all so please be patient with me and I'm sorry this is so short, but I felt I couldn't write any more right now and felt so bad for just leaving you all hanging.

Ruff was sat lounging in the apartment after a week. Astrid and Hiccup had disappeared off after dragon training. None of them was under any illusions as to the real reason for their trip. Clearly they were going to fuck. They'd let Stormfly and Toothless go and play and then fuck someplace, maybe under a tree, in the open... Ah, the joys of an active sex life. Fucking anywhere and everywhere... She sighed. A string of unattached sexual encounters just didn't have quite the same levels of satisfaction that her roommate was currently privy to.

>Ruff knew enough about their encounters to know Hiccup was a very satisfactory lover. And she had to admit, she felt a twinge of jealousy. Astrid seemed so much happier, and much more satisfied than Ruff ever had done.
It seemed despite Hiccup's shyer and quieter demeanour, he could turn it on just like that. According to Astrid's descriptions that she gave when she simply couldn't resist boasting, Hiccup was very skilful, both with his hands and his mouth, leaving Astrid totally satisfied.

>'Four times' Astrid had boasted only yesterday. He'd bought her to orgasm four times in one day... Ruff had joked and been rude, but she was envious. Despite repeated sexual activities with the same guys, none of them knew how to make her scream. She supposed it was something that came with experience and knowledge of a person. Hiccup and Astrid knew each other more intimately than anyone else, Astrid

could probably recite the positioning of every scar and freckle on Hiccup's body. But it went beyond that. They knew each other on a deeper level, intellectually, emotionally... Something Ruff had not yet experienced. She sighed. She'd never cared before, but seeing her best friend's happiness, and satisfaction, she had to wonder just how much better it really was.
"What's up with you?" Astrid's voice echoed as she entered the apartment. Ruff glanced at her watch, gone midnight, clearly they'd been busy.

>"Oh nothing, I was trying to guess how many times you screamed tonight." She said casually and Astrid punched her shoulder, Ruff grinned at the familiar gesture. "More than yesterday?"
"None of your business."

>"You've been out long enough, you could have..."
"Ruff... Drop it!"

>"Just a little hint? Please?" She batted her eyes.
"No more than yesterday." She said, but she had nothing to be displeased about. It had still been more than satisfactory. "But still damned good."

>"Have you su..."
"RUFF!"

>"Was only curious to know if you had yet."
"Why would I tell you if I had?"

>"Because you'd not be able to resist!"
"What, I wouldn't be able to resist telling you if I sucked my boyfriend off?"

>"Yeah!"
"Dream on!"

>"Fine! But I'll find out when you do!"
"How?"

>"Oh come on! You think if you did that Hiccup would be able to keep it quiet?! Nah, the guys will know and I'll be able to drag the answer from one of them!"
"Well there's nothing to say right now!"

>"Well at least that's some sort of answer. Now onto a different topic I suppose..."
"Yes please." Astrid said sitting down.

>"You have a twig in your hair by the way." Astrid blushed and brushed through her hair again, attempting to remove all trace of her latest encounter with her boyfriend. "So, what are we going to do about little Miss Heather who still seems to think Hiccup is hers despite you practically grinding in his lap at lunch the other day?" Astrid's face turned dark.
"You and Tuff said you had a plan. I want to know what that plan is."

>"We do indeed. We have a number of plans. You up for being cunning and conniving instead of outright aggressive?"
"I might just about be able to manage that. Do I get to mark my territory?"

>"Oh yeah, we're going to make it VERY clear who Hiccup belongs to."<p>

Saturday night meant drinking, dancing and a lot of laughing. The dragon riders were all out and making the most of this first weekend as a reunited group. Everyone was laughing and drinking, no one bothered driving out, they'd all take a taxi home to save them from missing out on drinking.

>"I have so missed this!" Tuff laughed as he raised a glass. "Here's to the Hiccstrid ship setting sail again! May it never again run aground!"
"To Hiccstrid!" They all laughed, toasting with him. They'd been doing this all night, and Tuff it seemed was a little intoxicated and getting giddy, over-excited and emotional over every little thing. Especially their newly reinstated relationship status.

>"Thanks Tuff, glad we have your support!"
"You've always had my support! I'm your number one fan!"

>"Nuh uh! You can't be their number one fan!" Snotlout protested.
"Hiccup is!"
>"Hiccup and Astrid can't count because they're in the relationship!" Fishlegs pointed out. "So Tuff might be their biggest fan."
>"Not if I am!" Ruff cackled.
>"You're not!"
>"Are too!"
>"Are not!" And so began the most bizarre contest ever. For the next hour and a half, Ruff and Tuff, and at times Fishlegs and Snotlout, tried to prove they were the biggest fan of the 'Hiccstrid ship', mostly by answering questions on the couple.

>"How the hell do you know that?!" Hiccup demanded of Ruff as Snotlout and Tuff gawked. Ruff and Astrid couldn't help themselves giggling as Ruff put down the fingers she'd used to make a gesture.
>"You told her how..." He exclaimed running a hand through his hair.
>"What?! I had bragging rights and I was going to use them!"
>"Bragging rights?"
>"There's no way... He's not... You're not..." Snotlout spluttered.
>"No way!" Tuff exclaimed. "No wonder Astrid always looks so pleased after you guys fuck... But now I kind of see why she hasn't sucked..."
>"Tuff!" They both snapped, turning equally red.
>"What? I'm just saying that Hiccup is actually really well..."
>"Tuff shut it!"
>"And on that note, I think we're done here." Hiccup nodded in agreement taking Astrid's hand and waving at the others.
>"I agree, we'll see you guys later!"
>"You're not going back to your place Astrid?" Snotlout asked, his eyes flickering to Ruff.

>"Nope, she's staying with me tonight."
>"Your dad out of town then?" Ruff asked with a cheeky wink to Astrid.
>"Yup. He's not back till Monday, not that that matters. She's staying with me anyway."
>"You want your girlfriend in your bed?" Tuff teased.
>"Damn right I do. I've not had her there yet." Astrid hit him lightly, chuckling. "Bye all!" He said cheerily pulling his girlfriend away with him.

25. Chapter 25

Sorry for the long wait! As I've said before, reality has no time for fanfiction! How rude of it! But here's the next chapter for those who have waited for it.

Warning - Animal sex and animal style sex in this chapter.

The dragons were out in Toothless' stable, happily ignoring their riders. Darkness had fallen and the two were returning from playing on the Haddock estate. Both could sense it. Pheromones filled the air like the pungent smell of fish. Stormfly's sensitive nose could pick it up miles away. There was a definite smell of mating in the air. Her rider had mated with Toothless'.
>The pair moved cautiously towards the house, Toothless listening for any further sounds of the pair being their usual loud active selves. He and Stormfly had hurried off to play when the low loud moans had begun, the panting and desperate cried of the other's name. They felt they had no reason to listen to the sounds of the copulating couple.
>The couple it seemed, had tired themselves out for all Toothless could hear was soft gentle breathing and the occasional

snore. Deciding it was safe, Toothless led Stormfly back into the stable where she padded around in the hay to get comfortable. Toothless preferred to sleep on his 'hot plate' â€" a flat rock he blasted to warm it. He was just preparing to settle down when Stormfly made an unusual chirp. He froze, ears twitching. She did it again. He turned to look at her. She flapped her wings and bobbed her head at him, chirping all the while. He bobbed his head with her, mouth open in his gummy grin. It was how they greeted each other. It was a mark of affection between themâ€| It was also how a Nadder courted. She stood up, chirped and waved her tail in his direction. Toothless paused before moving forward, a low rumble in his throat. His human mated all the time with Stormfly'sâ€| There had to be some reason for that besides producing hatchlings since Astrid wasn't laden with child yetâ€|

>Stormfly raised her tail high, waving her opening. Toothless rumbled again as his front legs held him onto her. She rumbled back. He moved in, her tail twisted with his, locking them together as he mounted her, slipping into her. It was their turn to fill the air with sounds of mating. He drove into his mate as they rumbled and let out low calls into the night. Toothless was starting to understand why Hiccup did this. It was a claim on his mate. As long as Hiccup mated successfully with her frequently, she stayed his.
He mated with Stormfly several times that night. They nipped at each other and she bit his throat, marking her claim, and her trust in him to be her mate. Stormfly had mated before, but for Toothless it was his first. He grumbled and curled up beside her, twisting his tail free of hers. There were scratches from her spines and he was sure his tail fin had ripped â€" Hiccup wouldn't be impressed. The pair slept, exhausted by their amorous mating.

In Hiccup's room the air was still hot with the aftermath of sex. Hiccup and Astrid had been fairly rough and handsy when they got back, the alcohol lowering their inhibitions and making them more desirous. It had been hot, quick and rough. The second time even more so. The third time though they'd turned it down a notch before falling asleep in a tangle of limbs together.

>They'd been sleeping fairly soundly for a while. But then Astrid had stirred to low deep moans. Initially she thought Hiccup was dreaming, but when she turned around to kiss him awake to make his dreams a realityâ€| she realised the sound wasn't coming from Hiccupâ€| It wasn't even actually moaning.
"What theâ€|?" Then she heard the shrill chirp. She knew that chirp anywhere. "Oh FUCK!" She exclaimed sitting upright, making Hiccup grunt as his arm was practically thrown off her.

>"S'matter?" He mumbled sleepily, one arm stretching over his head, a fist rubbing tired eyes. Astrid jumped out of bed and hurried to the window, moonlight shining on her figure. Hiccup looked across at her, confused as to why she was at the window. "Astrid whatâ€|?" He asked sitting up.
"Listen!" She hissed. And he did. It took a second and then he heard it.

>"Is thatâ€|?" Astrid nodded frantically.
"Your dragon is fucking my dragon!" Her tone was serious and she hissed the words, almost like a bad thing. Hiccup didn't know whether to laugh or not. Looked like he wasn't the only one getting some action tonight.

>"Astrid relaxâ€| It's okâ€|"
"Hiccupâ€| Toothless is fucking Stormfly!"

>"Astrid, they're dragons. They're mating. Calm down. It's naturalâ€|" He lay back with an arm folded behind his head.
"Hiccup they're two different species!"

>"And? They're having some fun." She shot him a glare.
"Ok

Hiccupâ€¦| If I tell you I'm not on the pill right now and that you've just cum inside meâ€¦| three timesâ€¦|" He shot up like a jack in the box, eyes wide, his mouth dropping open.

>"What?! Shit! Astrid! Ok we've got to get you a morning after pill tomorrowâ€¦| You can't get pregnant! How the hell would I explain that to my dad?! Oh fuck!" She smirked at his reaction.
"Relax Hiccup. I'm picking up my new prescription tomorrow."

>"Oh thank fuckâ€¦| You panicked me then! Why would you do that?!"
"To make a point! Dragons have NO contraception. If he's successfully mated with herâ€¦| They would produce hybrid young, and we have no idea how that'll affect Stormfly! We don't know anything about Night Fury babies to know how different they are to Nadders!" She seemed frantic and Hiccup knew it was out of concern for the dragon she loved. He climbed out of the bed and walked over, wrapping his arms around her waist, kissing her temple. He tried to stand so his cock didn't press into her. The sight of her naked body made him hard in a heartbeat and he didn't want to seem insensitive.

>"Babeâ€¦| She'll be ok. I promise. If she does end up expecting, Gobber and I will do everything to make sure she is well taken care of. If there's any risk to her, we'll act. Ok?" After a moment she nodded, turning around to hold him and whisper her thanks in his ear before looking at him with raised eyebrows.
"Really?" He gave a sheepish grin and shrugged.

>"I can't help itâ€¦| Your gorgeous naked body is in front of me andâ€¦|OHHH!" She rolled her hips against him and ground down on him.
"Can't let them have all the funâ€¦|" She teased and grinning he shoved her on the bed. Her grin was devious and she got on her hands and knees and waggled her ass in front of him. "Let's do it dragon style!" She giggled. But he'd take her up on it. He got on his knees behind her, lifted her hips slightly, and slammed into her with enough force that she cried out a desperate cry of pleasure. He drove into her hard and fast, his balls slapping her ass. She moaned in pleasure and he grunted and groaned, her name rolling from his lips with the thrill of it all. He reached around to play with her clit and breasts which only made her gasp and moan more. The harder he went, the deeper he got and it seemed that she loved it but the sounds she made. Their moans mingled with their dragons and after a few minutes she climaxed around him and he shot his load into her. They collapsed, panting and grinning like wild things.

>"Fuck Astridâ€¦| That was unbelievable. That was so good. You're so fucking sexy." He panted kissing her on her temple again.
"That was incredible." She agreed. "You really gave it your allâ€¦| And you went so deepâ€¦|" She moaned as her body remembered the sensation. "You are amazing." He couldn't help grinning.

>"Thanks babe." He lay there a moment longer before speaking again. "Astrid you are definitely going toâ€¦|"
"Yes Hiccup, I'll get my prescription at dawn. Ok? Just relax babe. We're gonna be fine."

Please do review... it's those that keep me writing!

26. Chapter 26

I apologise profusely for my absence as of late. As it turns out, juggling a job, degree and anxiety disorder makes it very hard to write fanfiction. I've even been so ashamed of not having updated I wouldn't use my laptop, check my account or even check my emails, making my boyfriend do it for me.

However, I'm starting to get back some of my mojo and I hope to be updating more regularly than every six months or so :(Though I must warn you, over the next few months I face a very busy period at work as well as a few major assignments. So if things slow up between now and June, please be patient.

Sorry again and thank you for staying with the story. I hope I can stop disappointing people now.

There was Hiccup, hands on his hips in the doorway laughing at him. Toothless grunted at the intrusion. "Soâ€¦ looks like we both got some action last night bud." He crouched down and scratched Toothless in that sweet spot behind his ears. Toothless couldn't help a happy smug smile. "Score bud! Nice one, bump the fist." He chuckled when Toothless bumped his nose against Hiccup's fist.
>"Right bud, time to get moving. Astrid's headed into the town centre and I promised to keep you busy so you and Stormfly will behave!" Toothless looked hesitant. "Come on big baby boo. Let's go for a flight just for a couple hours ok?" He gave another grumble before he moved. Hiccup suddenly stood up and put his hands on his hips, frowning.
"Toothlessâ€¦ What have you done to your tail fin?!" Toothless shuffled guiltily around on the spot. "Awww bud seriously? Alrightâ€¦ I'll dig out the spare and repair this one later. Just remind me to remove it before you and Stormfly get active again!" With a sigh, he removed the damaged fin and dug out the spare. "Let's go bud."

"I have a problem. I have a huge problem. Shit shit shit shit shit!"

>"What's with the cursing?" Ruff asked a number of days later, flipping through the glossy pages of a magazine.
"I have a huge problem Ruff! Can you please find that sympathetic part of your brain?!"

>"Eurgh fine!" She swung lanky legs around and sat upright, leaning an elbow on the sofa arm and resting her head on her hand. "What's the problem girl?"
"My prescription ran out the other weekâ€¦"

>"Prescription forâ€¦?"
"The pill Ruff?"

>"Ok. Ok so you had no pill. So the problem?"
"I went to the pharmacy the other day and couldn't get my prescription."

>"Ok so just make Hiccup pull out or else make him wear a rubber."
"Yeah, I thought that tooâ€¦"

>"So thenâ€¦"
"Ruff I bought a test anyway."

>"Oh."
"Yeah. I mean, it's still early so it might not stick butâ€¦"

>"Does heâ€¦?" She asked, suddenly completely serious.
"No. He doesn't. I haven't told him yet. When I first told him I wasn't on the pill he got so freaked outâ€¦ I'm too afraid to tell him."

>"Astrid Hofferson afraid?" Ruff asked in disbelief.
"Oh shut up! This was not a part of the plan! We got back together only a short while back. I'm not ready for this! He's not ready for this!"

>"Ok ok!" Ruff climbed off the sofa and put an arm around Astrid. "Ok girl, breathe! Can't do anything until you breathe. Now just listenâ€¦ This is going to be ok. If worst comes to worst, I'll take you to the clinic myself. But you need to tell him. He has a right to know." She hugged her again and then held her at arm's length. "Ok? But you have to tell him."
"Do I really?"

>"Yes. Now come on. Calm down. It's gonna be ok."
"You promise?"

>"Course I do, now come on. We've still got to get revenge on that slut Heather."<p>

Hiccup arrived in school again, feeling pretty great. Life was good. Toothless and Stormfly were happy and playful as ever, and he was actually very hopeful for hybrid babies that year. He and Astrid were doing great, they were happy, spent time together, had amazing sex and he loved her. His courses were going greatâ€¦| What more could he ask for?

>"Hiccup Haddock!" Shit. Heather. "HICCUP HADDOCK YOU BETTER HAVEâ€¦|"
"Babe!" Astrid, thank the gods! "Babe! I've been looking for you everywhere!" She wrapped her arms around him and kissed him hard. He responded with a natural enthusiasm, lifting her off the ground as he kissed her back. Heather looked rather disgusted but he didn't pay attention as Astrid wrapped her legs around his waist. Suddenly all the blood from his head was rushing down to a very different organ. Astrid didn't seem to care that they were outside the academy in public view in front of Heather and a dozen other people. Hiccup no longer cared either. She was straddling his waist and rolling her hips in that all too delicious way. He moved to pin her against the wall of the academy, there were far too many layers of clothing between them, and he needed her. He craved her.

>"HICCUP WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!" Heather screeched. Hiccup finally pulled away from Astrid to respond, but she did it for him.
"He's making out with his girlfriend."

>"No he's not." Heather snapped back.
"He is."

>"No because I'm here!"
"And you're not his girlfriend. I am."

>"You broke up."
"And got back together. Now bye bye."

>"Get off him!"
"Nope!" Several years ago, Hiccup might have thought having two girls, especially two hot girls (because it was pointless to deny Heather was attractive too), fight over him was the coolest thing in the world. He'd have been an idiot. This was awful. He knew both girls were dangerous in their own right. Pitting them head to head was surely asking for a blood bath. Hiccup tried to speak but was quickly silenced. Astrid slipped down from around his waist and let him go, taking a menacing step towards Heather.

>"Oh good. You've learned which of us is really alpha female and let him go." Heather said with a smug smile. Astrid's hands clenched and unclenched.
"I let him go only so I could take you down and put you in your place."

>"I am in my rightful place. You need to give it up and accept you're outcasted." Heather said, stepping forward herself, making her challenge clear. Astrid met her challenge without hesitation.
"Back down. You really don't want to do this."

>"Oh I really think I do. We both know I'm better. Every guy you like likes me best. Right Hiccup?" Heather said. Hiccup shook his head and spoke his protest. But Heather ignored him.
"Step down Heather." Astrid warned again, teeth gritted and her hands balled into fists.

>"You step down Astrid. I'm alpha female now."
It was like something off the nature channel. Like two wolves circling each other, vying for dominance, neither willing to lose the fight. They were going to kill each other. Hiccup had to do something. He had to intervene. But Ruff seemed to read his mind and put a hand out to stop him.

>"Uh uh. Never get involved in a girl fight. You'll come out worse." She warned.
"I have to do something!"

>"Nothing you can do. This has been brewing since before you and Astrid got together. Astrid needs to put Heather in her place, once and for all."
"This is madness! We're not our dragons! We shouldn't be fighting like this! It has to stop!" Again he tried to intervene but again he was stopped. He wasn't about to let Astrid get hurt. Why wouldn't they let him help her?
>The fight looked set to end in violence. Hiccup didn't think he could stand to watch this, the twins held him back, refusing to let him interfere. This was bad, very bad. Then Astrid did something he didn't expect. She pulled something out of her pocket and held it up. She said two words and then Hiccup fainted.<p>

"Babe? Babe are you ok?" A voice was calling to him and Hiccup groaned as he woke up.

>"Hiccup? Hiccup can you see anything? Do you know your name and date of birth?" Another voice asked worriedly.
"Fishlegs I'm fine." He grumbled sitting up and holding his head. The twins were sat behind him, each supporting a shoulder. Astrid was in front of him, looking worried as she brushed his hair out of his face. Her eyes were heavy with guilt and worry. Hiccup forgot about everyone else around him and stared at his girlfriend.

>"You're pregnant? Were you ever going to tell me?" He asked, voice bitter. Astrid looked down shamefully.
"Hiccup Iâ€|"

>"Don't you think it's something I might have needed to know before say, oh I don't know, Heather and a dozen others!" He snapped angrily. He couldn't believe she hadn't told him. She'd told him she was getting the pill. That they would be fine. Why hadn't she told him before? Why instead, had she used it as ammunition against Heather? He was furious at her for this. "How long have you known?"
"Well Iâ€|"

>"How long Astrid!" He snapped again. She flinched slightly.
"Just over a week." She said hurriedly. Hiccup glared. "Twelve days!"

>"So in all those twelve days why did you not say anything?"
"Because I was scared Hiccup!" She blurted. He didn't have any sympathy right now.

>"But not so scared that you wouldn't shout it out to Heather and other people randomly."
"Hiccupâ€|"

>"No Astrid! No ifs or buts! You should have told me! None of them needed to know! But instead you used it as part of some vindictive little game to get back at Heather!"
"That was actually Ruff's ideaâ€|" Astrid mumbled.

>"Oh wonderful! So she knew before me too!"
"I panicked Hiccup! She's my best friend so I blurted it to her!"

>"But not to me. Your boyfriend and father of your baby." He spat.
"I was going to! And she told me I had to! I didn't mean to tell Heather thenâ€| That wasn't meant to happen like that. I was going to tell you firstâ€| but she was justâ€|"

>"So you thought you'd break the news to everyone like that. Wonderful. Fucking wonderful." Hiccup tried to get up but the twins held onto him, thinking it wasn't wise for him to be standing yet. "Get off me!" Hiccup growled, shaking them off and standing up straight. Reluctantly they fell back away from him.<p>

Astrid too stood up, blue eyes brimming with tears, not something you often saw in Astrid's eyes.

>"Hiccup please, can we talkâ€|"
"No. No we can't. You had twelve days to talk to me about it and you fucking left it!" Her lower lip trembled but Hiccup felt too angry to care. He turned and started to storm away.

>"Where are you going?" Astrid cried out after him.
"Anywhere you aren't!" He spat and he hurried away from her, leaving her standing and crying.

Hiccup spent hours away. The sun rose to its highest point and then began to sink below the horizon. And still no one had seen Hiccup. He raged to Toothless about it during a flight, he'd pounded the air with his fists as he screamed in frustration. What had she been thinking?! He was so angry he hadn't noticed the sky grow dark and cloud over. He was so overwhelmed by everything, he hadn't even considered how she was feeling, especially given his reaction. The sky was almost pitch black before Hiccup even started to calm down.

Sensing a slight calming in his rider, Toothless let out a low rumble to him.

>"I know bud. I really ought to talk to her about this." Hiccup said, he was laid back on Toothless and patted his side. "I just don't know what we're going to do."<p>

Toothless gave another rumble, trying to comfort his human. He didn't like knowing his human had been fighting with his mate. He didn't understand the reason either. Apparently she was to have a hatchling. Toothless thought this was the point of all the mating. So why was Hiccup so cross? And why did it seem to make them so sad and scared?

>"We're just not ready for a baby yet." Hiccup said. Toothless had learned that was what humans called their hatchlings. "But I don't know how Astrid would feel about giving up the baby. Females have a very different connection with a baby. She might not want to."<p>

All females loved and protected their young as best they could. It was a natural instinct. Humans cared for their young for a great many years. It didn't seem surprising to Toothless that a female would have a very strong bond with their hatchling. But then again, Toothless had never heard much mention of Hiccup's mother. Did females in humans only care for female hatchlings for a long time? Was that why Hiccup only had his dad? Toothless wasn't sure. But he supposed he might be learning soon.

>"I just, I don't know what is going to happen. We've not long been back together and now this happens? It would never have been easy but if she'd just talked to me firstâ€|"

Toothless' ears twitched. Something was lurking around them. He could sense them. He growled softly and flew a little faster, watching everywhere for the intruder.

>"â€| and then we could have discusses what we'd do, how we felt. I still would have been shocked but I wouldn't have been so angryâ€|"

Whatever or whoever it was, they were getting closer. Toothless listened hard. There was more than one.

>"â€|I mean, I didn't even give her a chance to explainâ€| But she still should have told me first. Right Toothless? Toothless?
TOOTHLESS!"

Toothless dived suddenly, zigzagging through the clouds, attempting to hide them from view. But the others kept following. He shot up high into the dark sky, but the bright light of the moon kept him visible. Toothless snorted his annoyance and dove back to the clouds. But still they followed.

"Toothless! What are you doing bud?!" Hiccup yelled, hanging onto Toothless' saddle for dear life. Toothless wished Hiccup would be

quiet. Then a screech broke the otherwise still night.

>"Toothlessâ€|" Hiccup said slowly, now glancing around. Toothless could see them too.<p>

Dragons. And lots of them. They were surrounding the pair.

>"This is not normalâ€|" Hiccup said, hugging tighter to the saddle.

Dragons in Berk and around its borders never behaved this way.

Especially not to Hiccup and Toothless. Toothless looked for a gap, a place where he could blast the dragons and escape. If he could get clear of them, he could outfly them all. He was ready to fly and blast when a larger shape blocked the light of the moon and stopped in front of them, pounding four powerful wings that wisped up the clouds.<p>

The dragon screeched at Toothless. But Toothless did not flinch. He growled and snorted at the dragon, flapping hard himself.

"Oh myâ€|"

Toothless hadn't expected that. A masked rider was standing on top of the dragon. He didn't think there were any riders of dragons outside of Berk. So who was this?

He and Hiccup hovered in the air.

>"Hold on bud, just hold on." Hiccup was saying, staring at the figure uncertainly. That was when it happened.<p>

Another shriek and one of the other dragons snatched Hiccup from Toothless' back and flew off with him. Toothless was sent tumbling down towards the ground, screeching for his rider.

Hiccup landed on the floor of a cave with a thump. He rose quickly to his feet and scanned around for the unknown rider. "Where's Toothless?! He can't fly alone! You have to rescue him!" No response, but eyes watched him from everywhere. But Hiccup was not afraid of these dragons. "WHERE IS MY DRAGON!" He yelled, and finally the figure appeared again. He shouted again for Toothless as with smack of a staff of rock, another dragon dropped Toothless beside Hiccup.

Instantly the pair greeted each other, both checking the other for injury. Then Hiccup turned on the rider again, Toothless arched his back and hissed, coiling around Hiccup defensively.

>"Who are you? And what do you want with us?!" He demanded, trying to sound as brave as he could. The figure removed their helmet and moved towards him. It was a woman.<p>

Toothless hissed again. Hiccup lowered his voice slightly.

>"Who are you?" He asked again, as the woman inspected him. Slowly she stood up, she was tall, but not as tall as him. He drew himself up to full height. "I said, who are you." She stared at him with wild grey eyes, like stormy seas, flecked with green.
"I'm your mother."

End
file.